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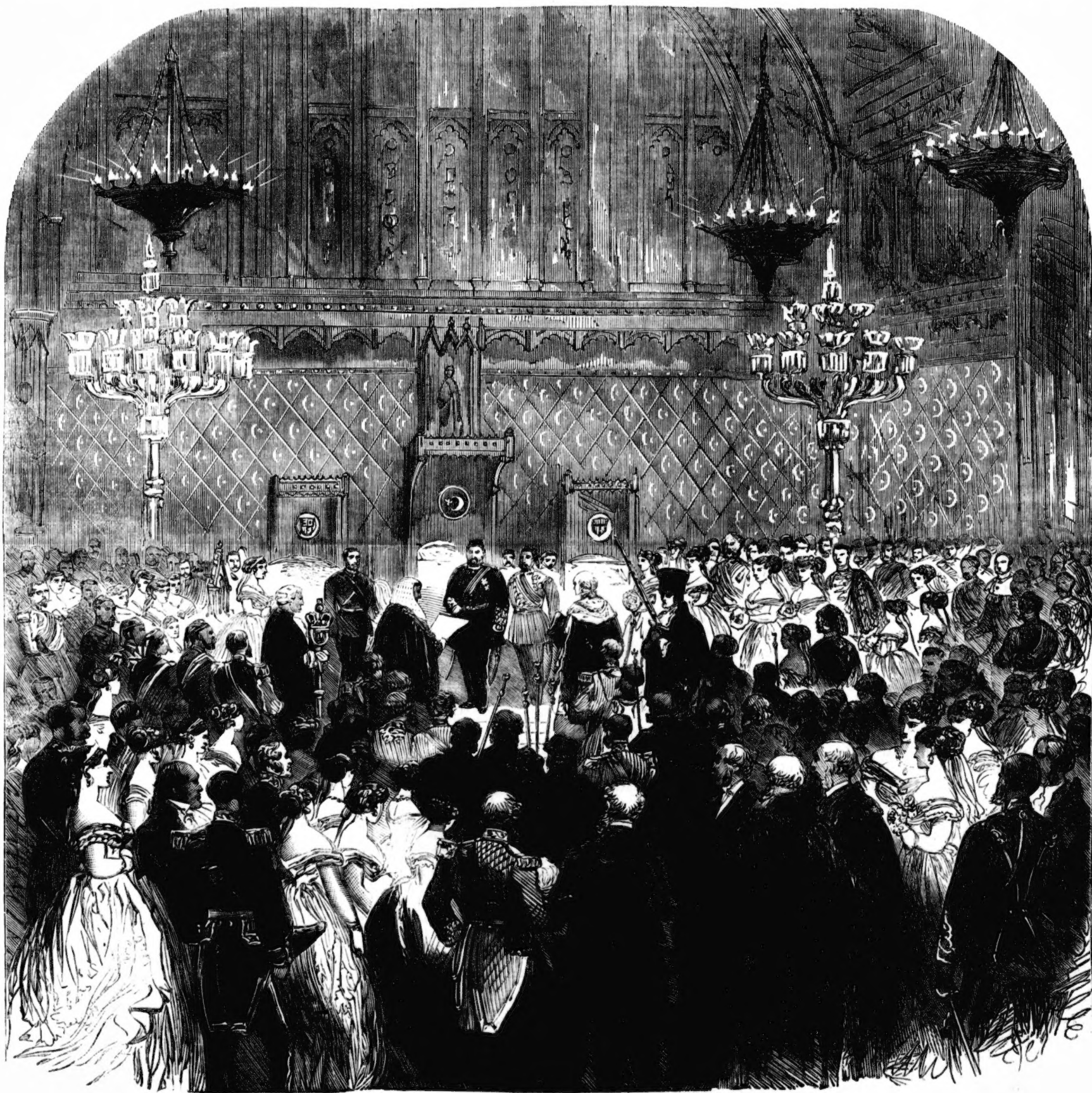
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DOINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

THE Reform Bill, as had been anticipated, has been read the second time in the House of Lords. It would have been strange indeed had it been otherwise. Both Conservatives and Liberals were pledged to support the measure—the former because it was the work of a Conservative Government, the latter because it embodied Liberal principles. In the Upper House the scenes witnessed in the House of Commons have been repeated. The Tories in their anxiety to gain popular favour went far beyond the Whigs; and would have competed with the Radicals if there had been any

Radicals in the House of Lords to compete with. But though the general opinion of the House was in favour of the bill, the general feeling was certainly against the manner in which it has been introduced, conducted, and, we may now say, carried. Confidence was freely expressed in the good qualities which, as everyone now finds, distinguish the British working man; but only members of the Government approved of the mode of proceeding adopted by the Government with the acknowledged object of settling the Reform question on a firm and final basis. Lord Carnarvon made a speech which has been compared to the similar one delivered by Lord Cranbourne in

the House of Commons, and in the course of which he pointed out that "if there is to be a race between the two great political parties to see which can outbid the other, the Constitution, or what remains of it, cannot survive even for a few Sessions." The "if" is well put; but it is not to be supposed that the race will be continued—or, at least, not for some considerable time to come. Otherwise, the result predicted by Lord Carnarvon would, of course, be inevitable. The Whigs have often been accused—and it is an accusation which Mr. Disraeli in particular was fond of bringing against them—of being Conservatives in office, Radicals in opposition.



THE SULTAN IN ENGLAND: PRESENTATION OF THE CORPORATION ADDRESS AT THE GUILDHALL.

Reverse the charge, and it may fairly lie against what used to be called "the great Conservative party." The Tories were conservative enough when it was to their interest to oppose the Reform Bill brought forward by the Whig Ministry. They became Radicals when they assumed the reins of office and found that to keep in office they must go further than the Whigs in the path of Parliamentary reform. As Sir Robert Peel was always looked upon as the sworn maintainer of the corn laws until he suddenly announced in Parliament his determination to repeal them, so Sir Robert Peel's severe critic, Mr. Disraeli, played the part of an opponent of Reform—or at least opposed all propositions for a reduction, as distinguished from a lateral extension, of the suffrage—until he has ended by showing himself ready to make just whatever changes might be necessary to enable his party to remain in power. The only argument that the Conservative party, or rather the Conservative Government, can use in self-defence is the one employed by Lord Derby—that the question of Reform having been raised, and having become an obstacle in the way of legislation and of Parliamentary work of all kinds, it was absolutely necessary to dispose of it. There are many Conservatives among those who have voted for the bill who evidently have no faith in it, and affect to throw the "responsibility" of it on the Liberals, who, on their side, though they cannot claim the immediate credit of having passed the bill, may indeed boast that they forced their opponents to pass it. Lord Derby once said, tauntingly, of Lord Palmerston's Government, that he was quite satisfied, and should continue to be satisfied, with it, so long as it continued to do the work of the Conservatives. The taunt may now be turned against Lord Derby himself. If the Liberals have supported him on the Reform question, it is for no other reason than because, in bringing in a Reform bill, his Government have introduced a really Liberal measure.

London, since the departure of our Turkish, Egyptian, and Belgian guests, which seems to have corresponded very closely with the termination of the London season, has been comparatively dull. Even the interest felt in the Reform Bill has become less keen now that it appears certain that the Lords will pass it. A few bills are being passed rapidly through the House of Commons; and a certain number also will be finally strangled now that the House has once more time to attend to them. Mr. Hughes's Sunday Trading Bill, read the second time some months since, has now been carried into Committee. This measure looked, at first sight, very like a bill for prohibiting Sunday trading; but, on examination, it appears to aim only at regulating certain branches of Sunday trading, and, by regulating, to sanction them.

Costermongers and itinerant dealers who supply the poor on Sunday mornings are condemned to absolute silence by this bill—though a silent costermonger is something not very easy to conceive. Nor, if he is not allowed to announce his presence as he passes along the street, can we see of what advantage his presence is likely to be to those who are now in the habit of purchasing from him. But the bill, though it would interfere with the exercise of the costermonger's profession on Sundays, will have a considerable effect in encouraging Sunday trading on the part of shopkeepers. The shopkeeper is needlessly forbidden to "hawk" or "use any public cry," but he is allowed to sell "meat, fish, poultry, game, and vegetables before nine o'clock;" and "milk and cream, pastry, fruit, and any beverage which may be lawfully sold without a license before ten and after one." He may, by the provisions of this Act, "exercise the ordinary business of the keeper of a cookshop, eating-house, or coffee-house before ten and after one;" and may sell in the character of a "baker, licensed victualler, or keeper of any inn, tavern, hotel, public-house, or house licensed for the sale of beer or of excisable liquors" without any further restraints than those imposed by the present law.

This seems to us a very bad step in the way of legislating on a subject which certainly requires attention at the hands of the Legislature. If it ever becomes the rule in England to open shops on Sundays, it will of necessity become the rule to employ shopmen, servants, and others, who, already, have not too much leisure. This, apart altogether from the religious question, would be a great evil; nor can we understand what benefit is to be derived from the proposed change, except, indeed, by the shopkeepers themselves, whose profits would no doubt be increased.

As regards the general public, that portion of it which supplies itself at shops can surely lay in its stock of provisions on Saturday evening. The very poor form the only class who are prevented, by their occupations and by the late hour at which they receive their wages on Saturday night, from making their purchases for the next day; and this is the very class whose peculiar and unfortunate position Mr. Hughes's bill does not take into account.

THE MOORS.—The prospects for the 12th of August on the best range of 1,500 running from the neighbourhood of Sheffield and Penistone, through Cheshire and Derbyshire, are very far from promising. The keepers on some of the most extensive grounds complain of great scarcity of birds, large numbers having been found dead from the severity of the weather and the want of food. Up to March there appeared to be favourable indications of a moderately good season, but since then the grouse have rapidly declined, a considerable number of them having been evidently attacked by disease, as the liver of several which were opened appeared like a clot of blood. On Mr. Stanhope's moors at Dunford and Snallden, comprising some 5,000 or 6,000 acres, although though not much shot over last year, birds are very scarce, and only in the vicinity of some of the lodges and moor farms, where they have been regularly fed, are there any numbers to be seen. The same is also the case on the grounds at Woodhead, belonging to Mr. Tollesche, and in the neighbourhood of Holmfirth. At Boardall Plate, Sir Lionel Pilkington's moors, which are generally well stocked, the birds are few, and such may be said to be the case for very many miles around. It is not expected that on several of the shootings there will be an opening this season, as the killing of the small number to be found would seriously injure the prospects of next year. In going over some miles of generally good moors on Saturday last very few birds were to be seen, and matters will not be much improved by the late rains.

THE SULTAN IN ENGLAND.

GRAND ENTERTAINMENT AT THE GUILDHALL.

THE preparations made for the reception of the Sultan at Guildhall on the evening of Thursday, the 18th inst., were equal to an occasion which was great and interesting. Having once resolved to invite the Sovereign of Turkey into the City, it was determined to do the utmost to give him a worthy welcome. The inhabitants of the metropolis were delighted to behold a revival of state entries into the City; and the novelty of closing up some of the leading thoroughfares for festive requirements was once more experienced. At four in the afternoon Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's churchyard, Cheapside, the Poultry, &c., were closed and guarded by vigilant policemen, whose time was fully occupied in preventing obstinate drivers from breaking the published rules. Crowds of persons lined the way from Buckingham Palace, Cheapside being especially thronged. No vehicles but the carriages of guests and her Majesty's mails, which were pretty numerous about six o'clock, were allowed to appear in the prohibited streets.

The Sultan, with a full suite, left Buckingham Palace at half-past six o'clock, in several state carriages, and proceeded, through the Strand, to Guildhall. In the park and streets loud cheers marked the progress of the cortege; and Turkish flags and colours, side by side with the union-jack, might be seen here and there suspended across the street. An escort of Horse Guards (Blues) accompanied his Majesty. The Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal family, also escorted by Horse Guards, and in a string of state carriages, proceeded previously to the City, leading many of the spectators to imagine that the Sultan had passed.

Guests began to arrive soon after four o'clock, and by five nearly half the 3,000 expected had been set down at the entrance. Some of them went at once into Guildhall, while others took up positions in the reception-hall, quite willing to wait three hours for the chance of being in close contact with the Sultan and other notabilities. Gentlemen with long white wands tipped with golden crescents and stars glided about, giving directions; others, in uniforms of divers descriptions, came with clanking swords across the floor to be announced in stentorian tones by Mr. Harker; ladies chattered and were gracious and pleased at all around, while workmen put finishing touches to the preparations. The reception-hall soon became filled, and the white wands had to make and keep a clear passage from the door to Guildhall.

The company came fast and thick just about six o'clock, for between that hour and the arrival of the Sultan no carriage was to enter King-street. It was in truth a memorable thing to see the brilliantly-dressed throng within and the uniforms without, and to catch a glimpse of crowds of the public, all eager for the appearance of the chief guests. By-and-by a band outside struck up the National Anthem, and the cry was "They come; they come!" It was a false alarm, however, and the occupants of the reception-hall relapsed into resignation. There was nothing for it but to wait; the announcement of an Earl no longer caused ladies to stand up on their chairs; baronets passed without notice; members of Parliament were at a discount. In the distance the National Anthem was again heard, then the cheers of people in Cheapside and King-street, then a band nearer Guildhall took up the air, and then the good-humoured countenance of the Duke of Cambridge appeared. He entered, followed by Prince Teck and Princess Teck, while the Royal heralds, Godfrey's Coldstream band within, and another band immediately without, produced a fine discord by playing all at once. Princess Mary, as the guests would persist in calling her, and her handsome, frank-looking husband, both here and subsequently, were more loudly cheered than any of the distinguished visitors. A few minutes later the Royal liveries were again outside, this time the arrivals being a number of the Sultan's suite. The Lord Mayor and his officers, who had been stationed inside the door for some time receiving the guests, conducted these gentlemen into Guildhall to wait for their Royal master. At seven o'clock there was a renewal of the previous excitement, and the Lord Mayor and other representatives of the Corporation received the Prince of Wales, Princess Louise of Hesse, Prince Louis of Hesse, Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and the Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. They were cheered as they passed in at the rear of the civic procession.

At twenty minutes past seven the Sultan arrived, escorted by the detachment of Royal Horse Guards which had ridden with his train through London from Buckingham Palace. The Turkish air was played as carriage after carriage set down its occupants, the Sultan last of all. Foremost in the procession through the vestibule went Princes Yousouff Izzedin and Murad, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. H. Lindsay. Then Mustapha Pacha and Halim Pacha, with Fuad Pacha, Ali Fuad Bey, Kiamil Bey, and Djemil Bey, headed a Turkish procession of not less than thirty persons. The Sultan smiled with evident satisfaction at the heartiness of the welcome given him as he was led by the Lord Mayor to the dais in the hall, shouts and cheers continuing all the way. There were three canopied thrones prepared for his Imperial Majesty, the Prince of Wales, and the Lord Mayor. The Sultan's throne was in the centre, and was distinguished by the greater height of its canopy as well as by the crescent and star. The Prince of Wales's chair of state, on the Sultan's right hand, was surmounted by the Royal arms; and the Lord Mayor's seat was indicated by the insignia of the city of London. Having taken the place assigned to his Imperial Majesty upon the dais, with the Prince of Wales on his right hand and the Lord Mayor on his left, the Right Hon. the Recorder (Mr. Russell Gurney) read an address on behalf of the Corporation. This address was inscribed upon parchment, and inclosed in a valuable and beautifully-worked gold casket, manufactured by Messrs. Howell and James, and warmly approved of by the Queen when she inspected it.

The Sultan having had the address translated to him, the following reply from his Imperial Majesty was read to the Lord Mayor, as the representative of the Corporation:—

I sincerely thank the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of this great and noble city of London. I am happy to proclaim the gratitude which I feel for the cordial and hearty reception I have met with from your gracious Queen, my august ally, as well as from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the great English nation. I have two objects in view in visiting this and other parts of Europe—one, to see in these centres of civilisation what still remains to be done in my own country to complete the work which we have begun; the other, to show my desire to establish, not only among my own subjects, but between my people and the other nations of Europe, that feeling of brotherhood which is the foundation of human progress and the glory of our age.

After a short retirement, the Sultan, the Prince of Wales, and suite returned, and there was a concert, including some fine singing, but to which very little attention was paid. The Sultan and the Prince of Wales had a quiet chat, through the medium of Fuad Pacha; and the people in the hall were panting with the heat and crush and struggling to get a glimpse of Oriental majesty. At last came supper—the event of the night—which was served in all manner of odd places—in the Council-chamber for the Imperial party, in the crypt and in the courts of law for the rest of the company. A ball followed, which was opened by a quadrille, in which the Prince of Wales danced with the Lady Mayoress, and in which Prince Louis of Hesse, Princess Mary, the Duke of Aosta, Princess Louise of Hesse, the Duke of Sutherland, and Miss Gabriel, daughter of the Lord Mayor, took part—the Sultan watching the ceremony with some interest.

GRAND BALL AT THE INDIA HOUSE.

On Friday, the 19th, the long-talked-of ball to the Sultan at the India House took place, and the magnificence of the entertainment effectually surpassed all similar events for many years past; the only one bearing any comparison to it being the City reception of the Prince and Princess of Wales, on their marriage. It was only a little over a fortnight since the thing was first mooted. At first, the suite of state rooms in St. James's Palace—rooms which, in space and loftiness, are superior to almost any to be found in Buckingham Palace—were thought of; but at the same time a happy idea suggested itself—to roof over, temporarily, the inner courtyard of the new India Office, and so convert it into a ball-room for the night. It

is not now the time to enter on a description of the architectural beauties of the new Foreign and India Offices; it is sufficient to say that they are among the foremost works both in external, and still more internal, architectural beauty that have been raised during this generation. The chief feature of the building, at least on this occasion, was the central courtyard, inclosing a space in the interior 120 ft. long by 60 ft. wide and 80 ft. high. Around the basement of the upper and the second stories is a kind of covered arcade, supported by columns of polished marble and granite, with beautiful arched openings, giving a view upon the spacious court beneath. This courtyard was converted into one of the grandest ball-rooms that have ever been seen in London. That at Buckingham Palace would bear literally no comparison with it either for architectural beauty or style of decoration. A temporary floor was laid, and planed and polished to the smoothness and equality of a billiard-table. What may be called the clerestory or double-arched galleries above the basement was draped in and hung between the polished marble columns with curtains of crimson velvet embroidered with gold, while from beneath the centres of the arches themselves depended gilt baskets filled with large masses of creeping flowers. From the upper tier of all alternate standards of blue and red were hung—the blue bearing the monogram of her Majesty, the red the cipher and crescent of Abdul Aziz. The whole of the decoration was on the most splendid and elaborate scale. The display of flowers and ferns was especially beautiful. Sometimes they were arranged in bright parterres round little fountains, and woven in their bright colours into such beautiful patterns as one would only expect to see in textile fabrics. Some had the Sultan's colours, some those of her Majesty; others were grouped in picturesque disarray, resembling more the patterns of a kaleidoscope than any mere collection of flowering plants. The landing on the left of the visitors' entrance was turned into a little Arcadia. The deep recess between the polished marble columns was filled up with rockwork, shrouded with a feathery growth of ferns and creepers; and down over all came a bright sparkling cascade of water, the effect of which was wonderfully striking and picturesque, as it ran in sparkling streams from rock to rock, disappearing at last no one knew whither. There were stars of bayonets, of muskets, of sabres, and of ramrods, some of which stars were of immense size, and all of surpassing brilliancy, as the gas-stars in their centres made the steel glisten with every flicker of the light. One of the most beautiful of all, which immediately faced his Majesty on arriving, was a huge crescent and star, done in sabre-blades and sabre-scabbards. The Imperial supper-room was also decorated on a magnificent scale, all the treasures of Windsor and Buckingham Palace having been ransacked to lend additional splendour to its adornment. At the upper end, under which his Imperial Majesty was to sit at supper, was a trophy of massive golden plate. There were shields, and cups, and salvers as large as any shield, the rarest and most antique specimens of workmanship of their kind, one or two being from the hand of that great master Benvenuto Cellini, and others dating as far back for their origin as the days of Queen Elizabeth. Mixed with these, so as to form a background to their brilliancy, were the time-honoured regimental standards of many regiments, all covered with glorious names of victories achieved, some dim and dusty-looking in their faded glories, and others mere tatters of discoloured silk hanging to the poles. Conspicuous at the base of this great trophy of artistic wealth and historic honours was a huge tiger's head and shoulders, about four times the natural size, in gold. It was beautifully chased so as to resemble the markings of the beast's skin, and the widespread open jaws of the monster were filled with teeth of rock crystal. This was a trophy from the treasure-house of Tipoo Sultan. Golden plate graced the supper-table, and indeed the descriptions of the fête read more like a tale of some feast of the genii than of the sober matter-of-fact days of the nineteenth century.

It was nearly eleven o'clock when his Majesty arrived. He was met at the park entrance by Sir Stafford Northcote, the Minister for India, Sir James Ferguson, the Under-Secretary of State, and the members of the India Council, and was ushered to the Reception-room, where the Prince of Wales, Prince and Princess Louise of Hesse, and other members of the Royal party, were present to meet him. After a short interval a procession was formed, and proceeded through an open space roped off in the centre of the hall to the dais and chairs of state which were arranged there. The Sultan led her Royal Highness Princess Alice, the Prince of Wales leading the Duchess of Cambridge; and a distinguished party followed. Eastern monarchs don't dance, and are said to wonder why other people should when men and women can be hired to undergo this fatigue. So the Sultan looked calmly on while the twelve couples who formed the only quadrille party went through the well-known figures. The Prince of Wales danced with Lady Northcote; Princess Alice honoured with her hand the Minister for India. The Duchess of Cambridge remained seated on the right of his Imperial Majesty, and the Duke of Cambridge during the quadrille took the chair on the Sultan's left, which had been vacated by Princess Alice. His Excellency Fuad Pacha, as usual, acted as interpreter in the conversation between the Sultan and any of the Royal party whom he addressed. After the quadrille came a waltz, which was restricted, as before, to the Royal party. But the waltz somewhat languished, and was not shared in at the most by more than six or seven couples—sometimes only by two or three. It was kept up, however, as waltzes are, with a titful energy long sustained, and the guests outside the privileged circle watched the dancing with immense interest. At half-past twelve the Sultan signified his pleasure to take supper, and a new procession was formed which proceeded up the grand staircase, and past the pleasant cascade, with its refreshing sound of falling water, to the chief supper-room. The general guests then danced. Great statesmen and diplomats don't, as a rule, dance; and one or two, whose official positions required that they should, were observed to be rather at a loss in some of the figures. Supper was provided for 2,500 guests.

DEPARTURE OF HIS MAJESTY.

The Sultan left London, on Tuesday morning, at a few minutes before eleven o'clock. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge accompanied him from the Charing-cross terminus of the South-Eastern Railway to Dover. A guard of honour and a distinguished company at the station did the honours of the departure. At Dover his Imperial Majesty lunched at the Lord Warden Hotel, and speedily went on board the Osborne Royal yacht, which at two o'clock cast off from the pier under a Royal salute from the castle, and paddled across Channel, being escorted by a considerable squadron, consisting, among other ships, of the Minotaur and the Liverpool. His Majesty, besides giving £500 to the officials of the South-Eastern Railway who had to do with his trains, has sent to the Lord Mayor £2500 for the poor of London. We regret to add that a sad accident occurred in firing the parting salute at the Drop Redoubt, Dover. One man was killed, and two were seriously injured.

The Sultan arrived at Liège, on his way to Prussia, on Tuesday night, and was received with great cordiality by the King and the Count of Flanders. After partaking of supper his Imperial Majesty proceeded on his journey, and reached Coblenz on Wednesday, where he was met by the King of Prussia.

HIS HIGHNESS THE VICEROY OF EGYPT has presented to the Lady Mayoress a brooch of great value, as a token of his Highness's gratitude for the munificent entertainment given to him at the Mansion House on Thursday week. The souvenir consists of one magnificent pearl surrounded by sixteen large brilliants of the finest water, with eight radiations of brilliants, terminated by others equally large; and depending from this star are chains of diamonds supporting four large pear-shaped pearls.

FROM A COTTAGE TO A THRONE.—The Empress of Morocco is a native of Chalev, near Dole, in France, where she was born, on Nov. 20, 1820, in a poor thatched cottage. Her name was Virginie Lanterrier. She went with her parents in 1834 to Algeria, and the whole family were taken prisoners by the Moroccans. Her father was killed, and her mother died a short time afterwards. The captors, dazzled by the great beauty of Virginie, spared her, and, by a concurrence of romantic circumstances, the Emperor's son fell in love with her and made her his wife. This Empress has since sought out and brought her three sisters to the Moroccan Court, to which they are now attached.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Government has received a telegram from M. Dano, the French Minister in Mexico, dated the 9th inst. M. Dano thought he should not leave Mexico for another week. The assurance of their countryman's safety will give great satisfaction in Paris.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Corps Législatif, after the successive adoption of the Budgets for all the Ministries, the Extraordinary Budget was agreed to in its entirety by 249 against 15 votes. The President then read a decree closing the Session, and the members dispersed amid shouts of "Long live the Emperor!"

ITALY.

In consequence of a note addressed to the French Government by the Papal See relative to 300 cases of desertion which have occurred in the ranks of the Antibes Legion, the French General Dumont has arrived at Rome on a mission to investigate the matter. This mission is attracting much attention in Italy. It is stated that General Dumont told those members of the Antibes Legion who yet remain true to their colours that they were there, not as Papal Zouaves, but as French soldiers, to watch over the Pope. This has caused great excitement. The French papers insist that Garibaldi is actually in the field against the Papal rule, and that the word had passed to Rome that a republic should be proclaimed there. Meantime, Signor Ratazzi declares that Italy will put down any attempt of the Garibaldians to enter Roman territory. He is said to have used the words that "he would not recoil before a second Aspromonte."

PRUSSIA.

Chamberlain Von Quasde, the Danish Ambassador at Berlin, is said to have recently presented the reply of Denmark to the last Prussian despatch, requiring guarantees for the protection of German subjects in North Schleswig. This reply, it is alleged, declines to give any guarantees save those of Danish law, and insists that the fifth article of the Treaty of Prague shall be carried out.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial decree has been issued reconvening, in accordance with the existing laws, the Provincial Assembly and the Provincial Institution of the Government of St. Petersburg, which were dissolved in January last.

The peace overtures of the Emir of Bokhara were agreed to, on the 11th inst., by the Governor-General of Orenburg. In accordance therewith, hostilities are not to recommence except in case of extreme necessity; the Emir of Bokhara, on his part, to give orders for the cessation of hostilities. The Envoy from Bokhara has given guarantees that this condition shall be fulfilled.

CRETE.

The Porte has received a telegram from its Legation at Athens announcing the occupation of the Sphakia district by the Turkish troops and the submission of the whole island.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate has passed a supplemental Reconstruction Bill, substantially the same as that adopted in the House of Representatives, with additional clauses ratifying the past action of the district military commanders, empowering General Grant to remove the Southern civil officials, declaring no person entitled to registration as a voter by reason of the President's pardon, and also declaring all civil officials who participated in the rebellion to be disfranchised. The President having vetoed the bill, both Houses of Congress have passed the bill over the President's veto.

Stevens, Howard, Chandler, Logan, and other Radical members of Congress have made speeches strongly denouncing Maximilian and approving his execution. It is rumoured that the Washington Administration is in favour of American intervention in Mexico, filibustering expeditions against Juarez and his Government are organising at New York, New Orleans, Buffalo, and other cities, and large numbers are reported to be enlisting. It is rumoured that Santa Anna is still alive; but is held a prisoner at Yucatan. The Navy Department is said to have ordered the frigate Susquehanna to proceed to Mexico and demand Santa Anna, dead or alive, and an apology.

The New York papers state that the American gun-boat Haye has been detained at Quebec, having been refused a permit to proceed to Detroit, in consequence of the refusal of the captain to give the customary salute to the British gun-boats.

MEXICO.

Mexican intelligence, published by the New York journals, states that Juarez and his Cabinet left San Luis Potosi, on the 1st inst., for the capital. His wife had left New Orleans for Vera Cruz, in the American revenue-steamer Wilderness.

INDIA.

The latest accounts received relative to the famine in Orissa are less satisfactory. An appeal has been published asking for £30,000 to support 1500 children who have been left orphans by the famine. A native gentleman has offered £1000 to the famine fund, provided that nine others subscribe each a similar amount.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL CHESS MATCH, which has been for some time playing in the salon of the International Club at the Universal Exhibition, is just brought to a close. The Emperor's prize has been won by M. Kolich, of Hungary; the second prize by M. Winawer, a Pole; the third by M. Steinitz, an Austrian; and the fourth by M. Neumann, of Prussia. The grand prize consists of a magnificent Sevres vase, of the value of from 4000*fr.* to 5000*fr.* The other three prizes were given in money.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.—Sir Robert Phillimore has accepted the office of Judge of the Admiralty. There can be no objection to this appointment, which has been generally expected, and will be generally approved by the profession. It is said, however, that the Lord Chancellor proposes Dr. Deane as the successor of Sir Robert Phillimore in the office of Queen's Advocate. We trust there is no foundation for this report. At no time was it more essential that this officer, who is the chief adviser of the Government in all questions of international law, should be really conversant with all the intricacies of that intricate subject. If we are not misinformed, Dr. Deane has attained no eminence in that branch of the profession, and if he is appointed we should probably have the unseemly spectacle, of which there have been too many recent precedents, of eminent jurists called in to advise with the law officers of the Crown, and overruling their opinions. When the present Government was last in office they had the opportunity of appointing a Queen's Advocate, and their choice fell upon Sir J. Harding, to whom, more than to any single person, we are indebted for the Alabama difficulty. We trust there may be on the present occasion no disposition to postpone substantive claims either to personal favour or to party interests.—Times.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the propriety of making purchases from the Paris Exhibition for the benefit of the Schools of Science and Art in the United Kingdom and any other means of making that Exhibition useful to the manufacturing industry of Great Britain and Ireland have agreed to the following report:—1. They are of opinion that it is desirable that purchases should be made at the Paris Exhibition of objects of art and science, especially of such as illustrate modern scientific inventions and discoveries, and the application of art to manufactures; and that the exhibition of such objects in the Museum of South Kensington, and by circulation in local museums in different parts of the United Kingdom, would be useful to the manufacturing industry of the country, and for the artistic and scientific instruction of the schools in connection with the Science and Art Department. 2. That, as one of the principal objects of such purchases should be to show the progress made by other nations in manufactures, and in the application of art and science to practical purposes, examples of foreign origin should, in the first place, be secured in preference to those of British production. 3. That it is not desirable that pictures and modern statutory sculpture should be purchased. 4. That, considering the importance of such purchases to the development of the manufacture and trade of the United Kingdom, they recommend that a liberal grant be asked from Parliament for the purpose of making them. They have not sufficient data before them to enable them to suggest the sum which might be advantageously expended; but they consider that under no circumstances should it exceed £25,000. Lastly, they are of opinion that no objects should be purchased at the Paris Exhibition except such as shall be recommended by a commission consisting of gentlemen distinguished for their artistic and scientific attainments, who should consult with the two art-referes attached to the department of science and art, and other competent persons. They further think it desirable that the referees should furnish written reports upon the objects recommended by them for purchase.

THE VISIT OF THE BELGIANS.

BALL AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

OF all the entertainments prepared for the honour and amusement of our Belgian guests, perhaps the most complete and successful has been the ball which was given on Thursday night week at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. The building itself, admirably adapted by its size and shape to such a demonstration, had been so lavishly and skillfully decorated as to transform it into one of the handiwork of ball-rooms. The presence of the Prince of Wales, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Teck, added dignity to the occasion, and gave the festivities a national and Royal character which could not fail greatly to enhance their importance in the eyes of our visitors—while the general character of the gathering, including some of the noblest of the aristocracy and not rejecting humbler persons who have no pretensions to be among that mysterious number, "the upper ten," must have amply proved to the Belgians—if any such proof was needed—the hearty and genuine interest which is felt in themselves and their country by all classes of the English people.

The transformation which had been worked in the appearance of the interior of the hall was almost marvellous. The dull cold walls were concealed by white hangings enriched with lace, or relieved by festoons of flowers; the hard lines of the aisles and galleries were covered by elaborate wreaths; the ordinary dull metallic hue of the principal parts of the structure had been superseded by a mixture of white and gold; and the presence of rich curtains, banks of flowers, old armour, gay banners, innumerable chandeliers, and splendid transparencies, gave an entirely novel and even magnificent appearance to the Temple of Agriculture upon Islington-green. The dais which had been prepared for the reception of the Prince of Wales and other illustrious visitors was placed in the centre of the great orchestra, and, being elevated some 7 ft. or 8 ft. above the level of the floor, commanded a view of the whole interior. This Royal dais was not the least important part of the decoration. The canopy was of polished maple, draped with crimson satin relieved with hangings of bullion, and was surmounted with a handsome but not ponderous gilt cornice, bearing in the centre the Prince of Wales's feathers in crystal. The floor was covered with a crimson carpet, and the gilt and white chairs which were provided for the use of its distinguished occupants were covered with velvet of the same colour. The back of this platform of state was decorated with a life-sized transparency portrait of her Majesty in jewelled crystals, and similar representations of the Royal arms of this country and of Belgium. Immediately beneath the portrait of the Queen was an artistically-arranged trophy, fashioned out of a number of ancient arms, and taking the form of a gigantic star, which was illuminated by the application of the lime light. The Royal dais, the ornaments of which we have thus imperfectly described, was embosomed in a mass of shrubs and greenhouse plants, which covered the remaining space of the orchestra, and whose cool green foliage threw out into brighter and bolder relief the rich hues of the crimson hangings and the bright tints of the lighter ornaments. From this dais was, of course, to be obtained the most complete and comprehensive view of the ball-room, with its thousand-and-one adornments and attractions. When it became filled with a moving crowd of brilliant uniforms and gay dresses, its appearance almost defied description. The central space at the opposite or western end of the hall was occupied by a bank of plants and shrubs, some covered with the brightest bloom, and others offering to the eye a grateful relief in the cool verdure of their dark-green leaves. From among the miniature grove rose the prismatic fountains of Mr. Silvester; and, as the many-coloured waters rose and fell in the bright light of the chandeliers, this gracefully-constructed garden might, but for the press of the crowd and the hum of conversation around, have been mistaken for the abode of fairies, or the chosen retreat of the most favoured nymphs of the forest. Immediately behind this mimic wood—this miniature forest, with all its roughnesses shorn off to fit it for drawing-room society—and extending over the galleries themselves rose a Doric arch in crystal glass, bearing upon its face the appropriate inscription, "Welcome to England." Within the tympanum of this arch were transparent portraits of the Prince and Princess of Wales, as well as of the Sultan and the Viceroys of Egypt; while above were two stars of the Order of the Garter, surmounted by shields of crystal bearing the monograms of Victoria and Leopold. Extending to the right and left, the side aisles of the building had been transformed into colonnades some 500 ft. in length, supported on each side by about thirty pillars painted in white and gold. These avenues or floral walks—for they were so thickly bordered with flowers along their whole length as fully to deserve that title—formed delightful promenades on each side of the central space which was appropriated to dancing. The ceilings had been coloured pale blue, with panels of pink styling, and the bays were festooned with flowers interspersed with coloured lamps. Deeper within the recesses, beneath the galleries, the walls were draped in white, with a fluted enamelled cloth, while, facing each bay, were placed enormous mirrors, which reflected every feature of the scene, and the polished surfaces of which were inclosed in frames of flowers and lace; while the intermediate spaces were occupied by shields and trophies of arms and armour. The galleries were very splendidly and appropriately adorned. The prevailing colours of the ground-work were crimson, white, and gold, which had been skillfully and tastefully applied to the generally rather ugly-looking scantling which formed the front of these balconies. The trellis-work on each side had been transformed into a profuse floral decoration, and, as though the wreaths attached to the structure were not enough, baskets filled with artificial fruits and flowers were suspended at frequent intervals by ropes of blossoms. Along the entrance to each bay was fixed an illuminated shield, bearing the arms and device of some European, Asiatic, or American nationality; and at the foot of each pillar, hard, grim, and warlike in appearance, strangely contrasting with the light, gay, and peaceful aspect of all around, stood a figure clad in real ancient armour, lent for the occasion (as were the arms employed in the construction of the various stars, trophies, &c.) by the commandant of the Tower. The base of each pillar, below the pedestals upon which stood these threatening representations of the volunteers of the Middle Ages, was surrounded by embankments of flowers extending right and left to some distance. At each end of the side avenues were placed enormous mirrors, giving a perspective of 1500 ft.; and thus on every side the beauties of the scene were repeated and exaggerated by countless reflections. Flowers, transparencies, and arms, waving banners and glittering scutcheons, palms and ferns gently swinging in the breeze occasioned by the movements of the dancers, and sturdy men-at-arms rigid and erect in their coats of complete mail;—these were the materials of an almost infinitely varied decoration, and all these were blended and combined into a graceful harmony which has rarely before been witnessed in an English ball-room. The means employed for lighting the room were as perfect as any other part of the arrangements, and the jets of innumerable chandeliers shed a brilliant but tempered light over the dazzling scene.

About half-past eleven o'clock the dancing was temporarily interrupted by the preparations which were made for the reception of several members of the Royal family who were expected. The spectators had not long to wait before the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Teck entered the hall by the northern entrance, in Bedford-street, and walked round the dancing-floor, upon which a narrow lane had been marked out to the places which had been reserved for them upon the dais. Their Royal Highnesses, who were in full uniform, were very warmly received by the company, and graciously acknowledged the acclamations which greeted their arrival and the interest which was shown in their progress through the room. Shortly afterwards a cheer outside, and the striking up of the National Anthem, announced the arrival of the Prince of Wales, and his Royal Highness, who was in the uniform of a General, entered the hall, accompanied by his sister, Princess Louis of Hesse, and the Prince. The reception accorded to their Royal Highnesses was still more cordial than that which had been accorded to their predecessors. They were received by a deputation from the committee, of which Sir T. F. Buxton and Colonel Lindsay

were prominent members, and were by them escorted to the dais. As soon as they ascended the stairs the spectators burst into a loud cheer, which their Royal Highnesses graciously acknowledged. Princess Louis of Hesse remained but for a brief period, and after sitting a short time upon the dais left the hall, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge. The Prince of Wales and Prince Teck retained their positions until about twenty minutes past twelve o'clock, when they retired to the supper-room. Almost immediately afterwards the general supper-rooms were opened, and there was an immediate rush to the galleries. After supper dancing was resumed, and was kept up with great spirit until a late hour in the morning.

AT HOLLY LODGE.

On Friday week the Belgian volunteers were entertained at Holly Lodge, the residence of Miss Burdett Coutts, and, the weather being fine, the fête seems to have been extremely satisfactory. The Prince of Wales, who was expected, was unable to be present; but the munificent hostess was supported by a distinguished party, amongst whom were the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince and Princess Teck, the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Duke and Duchess of Aosta, the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, &c.

In the evening there was a grand concert at the Agricultural Hall, when the area occupied by the dance on the previous night was transformed into a vast concert-hall. The attendance was overwhelmingly large.

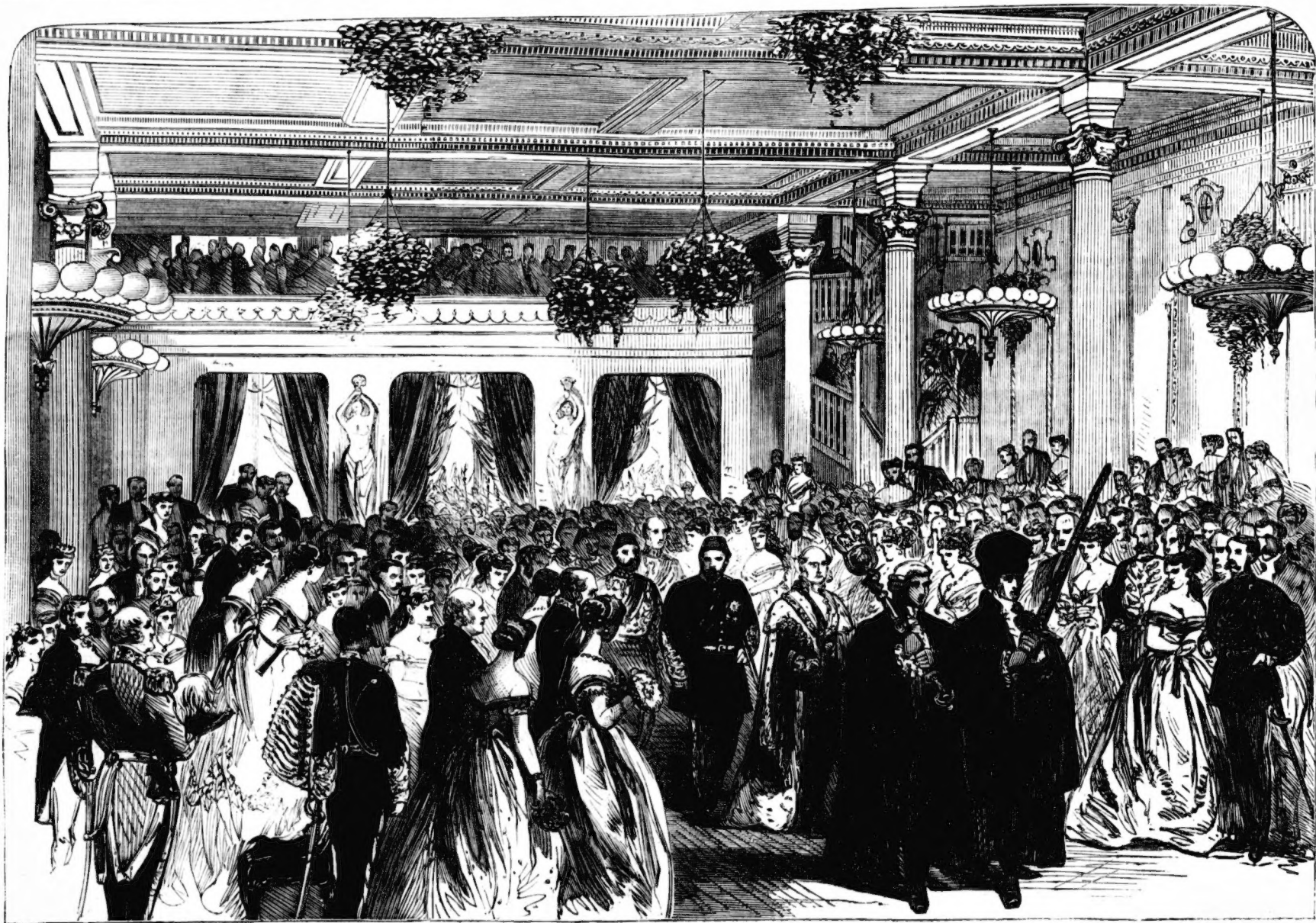
BANQUET AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

On Saturday evening last the Lord Mayor gave a banquet to a number of Belgian volunteer officers in the Egyptian Hall. The entertainment was of that sumptuous character which distinguishes the hospitality of the Mansion House; and some interesting speeches were made by his Lordship and by the eloquent burgomaster of Bruges. Owing to the lateness of the hour at which the review at Wimbledon was brought to a conclusion several of the invited guests were unable to be present.

THE DEPARTURE.

The Belgians have "gone out in honours." Their departure, on Monday, was the occasion of a grand and extraordinary scene, the like of which probably never has been witnessed on the Thames. The English people and the Belgian may both be congratulated on the demonstration, which was not marred by a single drawback. For the visitors themselves it must have been most pleasing, as showing that the general enthusiasm in their favour had increased from the day of their arrival until it had reached a pitch beyond which it could scarcely have been carried. The Belgians going by the Serapis paraded in the quadrangle of Somerset House at ten o'clock on Monday morning, where they were received by a guard of honour composed of the Civil Service corps. A large crowd attended to see the muster, and at a quarter before eleven o'clock, when the riflemen set out for the pier at the Houses of Parliament, loud cheers were raised for them on all sides. The force was headed by the Chasseurs-Eclaireurs, who had their band playing. The parting inscription "Au revoir!" appeared on flags suspended in the Strand, and when the Belgians reached Charing-cross the bells of St. Martin-in-the-Fields rang in their honour. From Trafalgar-square to the palace of Westminster the police kept a path for the march. On reaching Palace-yard they collected within the inclosure, and the band of the Chasseurs struck up "God Save the Queen." The moment the first bar was heard the Belgians as a body cheered enthusiastically, and a great number of them held their shakoes aloft on the muzzles of their rifles. In the small square behind the clock-tower, by which access is had to the pier, a guard of honour of the Queen's (Westminster), under the command of Lord Grosvenor, was stationed, and the band of the corps had taken up a position on the grassplot in the centre. The Belgians were conducted to the pier in detachments of about 150 each, and the moment the first of these detachments entered the square the Brabançonne was played. The pavement of Westminster Bridge, on the side next the Houses of Parliament, was covered by a dense mass of people who, as each body of Belgians came within their view, gave them an extremely warm greeting. Eight river steamers had been engaged by the executive of the reception committee—one for a party of ladies who had been invited by them to witness the embarkation, another for the committee, and the six others for the riflemen. All the eight boats were dressed in a bright display of bunting; but those of the ladies and the committee—the Fairy and the Swift—were conspicuous by the number of their flags. On board the Fairy there was a banner with a white ground, and the word "Adieu!" in the Belgian colours. Owing to the tide being very low, nearly two hours were consumed in getting all the riflemen on board their boats; but this rather tedious process was watched with unflagging interest by a large number of spectators assembled on the terrace of the Houses of Parliament and by the multitude on the bridge. The band of the Chasseurs, first in the square, and subsequently on the water, played our National Anthem over and over again, at intervals of a few minutes; and Lord Grosvenor's band returned the compliment as frequently with the Brabançonne.

At a quarter past one o'clock, the last of the Belgians having been embarked, and the ladies having taken their places in the Fairy, the committee proceeded, with the Colonel commanding the riflemen and his staff, on board the Swift, the band of the Queen's (Westminster) arranging themselves in the bow. When the order was given to prepare for an immediate start the spectacle was exceedingly imposing. The six steamers with the Belgians on board, which had dropped back towards Lambeth, came close up to the pier and formed a circle round the Swift. She then moved slowly ahead, and passed under Westminster Bridge. Everywhere above and around—on the bridge, from the windows and terraces of the Houses of Parliament, from the piers, from a score of steamers and boats—a tremendous cheer was raised. All the Belgians uncovered, and, as one man, shouted "Vive la Reine! Vive l'Angleterre!" The bands played "God Save the Queen," and, amid cheering and music, and the waving of banners, hats, and handkerchiefs, the eight steamers proceeded on their way to Gravesend. Along the new embankment at Whitehall, on Hungerford-pier, and on the iron bridge the crowds were immense, but they increased as the steamers passed down the river. Not only the terraces at Somerset House were crowded, but numbers were on the roof. Waterloo Bridge must for once have been profitable. Owing probably to a general idea that the payment levied at each end would prevent the bridge, from being crowded, there was an unprecedented rush to the balustrades. Not only was every foot of standing-room occupied, but nearly all across there was a line of people outside on the coping. By this time guns were being fired from the wharves and from barges, bells were ringing from church steeples, and the passengers on board all the river steamers—which were freighted to the extent of their carrying power—were cheering for Belgium and the Belgians. In this way the procession reached the City portion of the Thames. From the Cannon-street railway-station to London Bridge it seemed as if the population of a great city had turned out and there assembled in a mass. The traffic on the bridge itself was suspended. Pavements and balustrades were all covered with spectators. People stood on omnibuses, on the tops of cabs, and in waggons and vans; they were at the doors and windows of warehouses, and sat upon windlasses high up in front of stores and shipping depôts. As the Belgians passed under London Bridge they found that every ship down the river was dressed from deck to masthead. The large steamers discharged gun after gun in such rapid succession that with scarcely the interval of a minute there was saluting from London Bridge to Greenwich. The young sailors aboard the Cornwall, the Akbar, and the Chichester manned the yards and the rigging, and raised a succession of cheers that were distinctly audible even amid the firing. Thousands had gone down from London to Greenwich and Blackwall to see the Belgian procession as it passed those places. In the inclosure of the hospital the lines of spectators were three or four deep, the pier was blocked along its entire length, and ladies and gentlemen stood on the balconies of the Ship and the Trafalgar, joining in the demonstration of the crowds below. At Blackwall the scene was



THE SULTAN IN THE CITY: THE LORD MAYOR AND CORPORATION OFFICIALS CONDUCTING HIS MAJESTY INTO THE GUILDHALL.

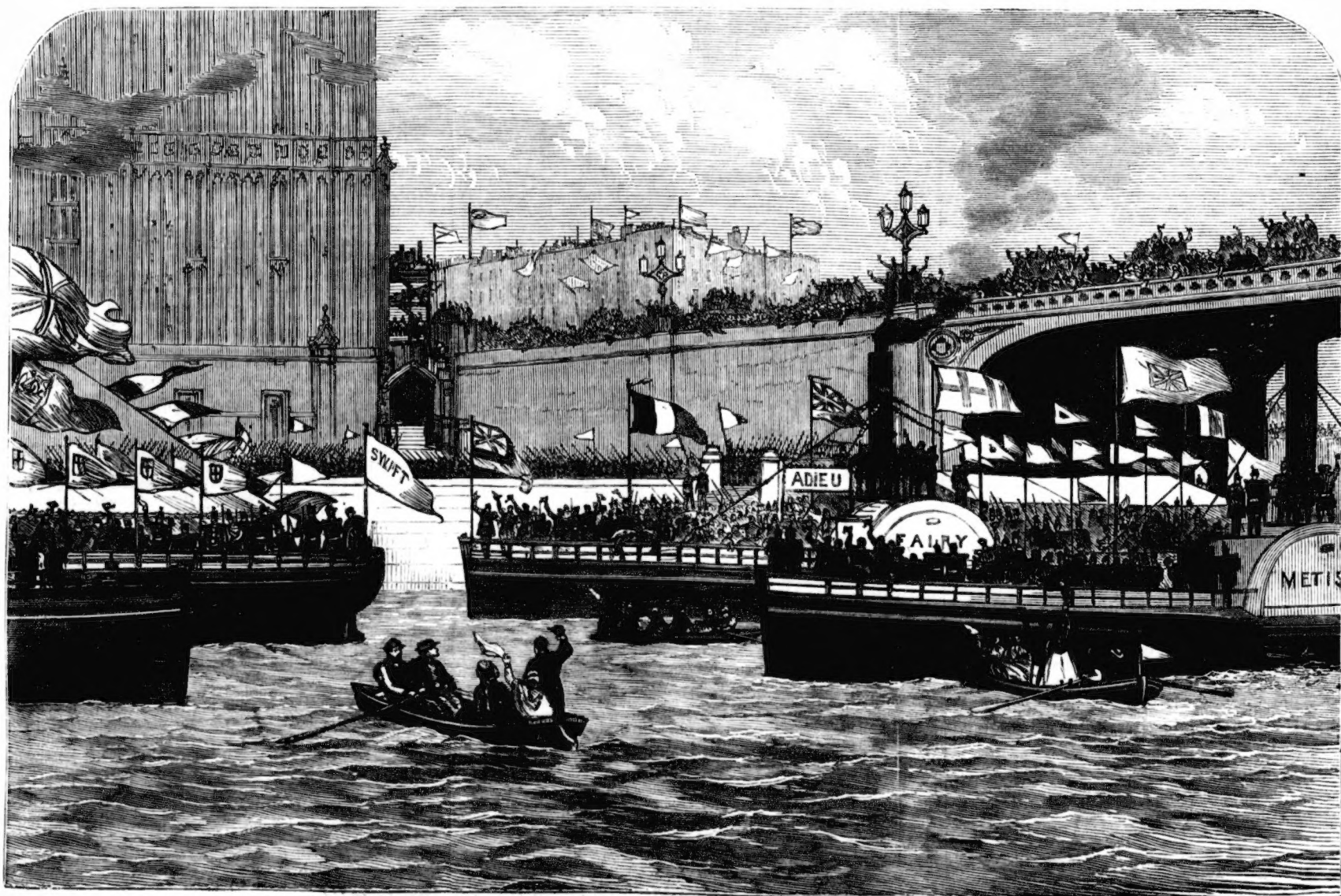
of a similar character. On small ships and little barges which had no signal-guns, the crews discharged rifles or muskets, or any arms which they might chance to have in their possession; and no boat, however small, allowed the Belgians to pass without making some display of concurrence in the general enthusiasm. When the distance between wharves and houses became greater, and the committee and the Belgian staff were thus permitted some cessation from responding to the acclamations by which the departing visitors were greeted, the company on board the Swift sat down to an excellent luncheon, and several speeches were delivered, Colonel

Grégoire stating that the scene of that day exceeded anything he could ever have imagined.

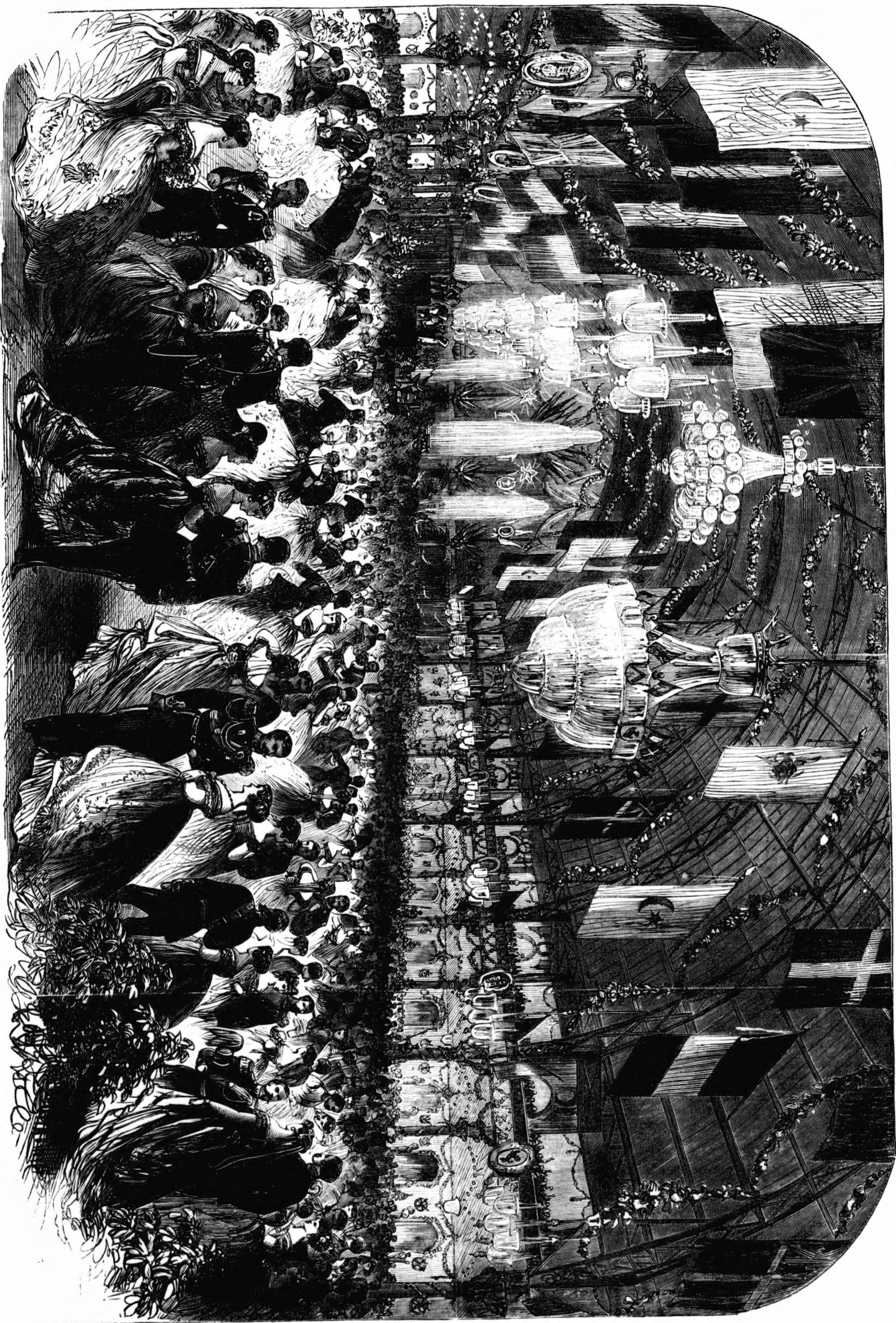
Gravesend was reached by half-past four o'clock. There, too, the whole town turned out, and, amid more cheering, more dipping of flags—a form of maritime saluting which had been practised all the way down the river—the procession approached the Serapis, which was lying at the Thames Conservancy moorings. Captain Soady and his officers, all in full uniform, came to the head of the companion to receive Colonel Grégoire and his staff. All the Belgians who had come down in the six steamers were on board the troop-ship

before five o'clock. Dinner had been laid for 1020 on the main and lower decks, and the general opinion expressed by the company was that the arrangements made for the passengers were very satisfactory. After a general leave-taking, the Serapis weighed anchor, at a quarter past five o'clock, and steamed away for Antwerp amid loud cheers. The last sounds heard from the troop-ship were vigorous and repeated shouts of "Vive la Reine!" "Vive l'Angleterre!"

The Serapis, with the Belgian volunteers on board, arrived safely at Antwerp on Tuesday morning.



DEPARTURE OF THE BELGIAN RIFLEMEN FROM THE WESTMINSTER PIER.



THE GRAND BALL TO THE BELGIANS AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 313.

THE ANNUAL SLAUGHTER.

On Monday morning last there were about a hundred bills upon the order-book. Fifty of these were Government measures, and the remaining the children of private members. On Monday evening Mr. Disraeli strangled nine of the Government innocents, leaving still forty-one alive. There are, then, at the present moment ninety-one bills upon the paper, in various stages of progress, all waiting to be advanced, and ultimately to be passed, if possible. Think of that, reader, in these last days of July, the hope being that we should see the House prorogued in about three weeks. How is this mass of work to be got through? It cannot be got through. Many more Government bills will be slaughtered; and of the fifty children of amateur legislators, at least forty must die. Well, no matter; the world will be none the worse, but perhaps all the better, for the extinction of these bills, especially those of them which have been brought in and pushed thus far by amateur legislators, for most of them are but poor things, as many amateur performances in other arenas are. At best, if they could be transmuted into laws, most of them would be mere trifles, while some would be mischievous. Indeed, trifles in legislation are mischievous, as they encumber the statute-book, which is now much too voluminous; neither need we expend our pity upon the amateur performers themselves, because their children are thus slaughtered. They are used to this murder of their progeny; for, though our amateur legislators are very prolific, their children seldom grow to maturity. Some of these amateur measures take, though, a deal of killing, after they are manifestly doomed. We have nights and nights of windy talk over them, especially if they be Irish bills. The Irish "wake" their dying bills as they do their dead relatives. But, after floundering about like a moribund porpoise in the shallows, the deadly harpoon strikes them at last. "But will they not rise again?" Oh! to be sure; at least most of them, in some shape or other, for you see all these bills are the outcome of notions and ideas in the brains of our amateurs; and, though you may kill the product of the notion or idea, you cannot kill the notion or idea itself. We have in our experience seen bills born and killed a dozen times over, and in some cases at last said bills do really advance to maturity, and get on the statute-book, and become endowed with immortality—at least with such immortality as the statute-book can afford them!

AMATEUR LEGISLATORS.

Our readers will see that we have no very high opinion of amateur legislators in general. We are bound to say, though (to use a favourite Gladstonian phrase), that in this case, as in most others, there are exceptions to the rule. Indeed, some of our best legislation has proceeded from amateur legislators—that is, to define the phrase—legislators not connected with the Government. Thus, for example: Mr. Bouverie has a bill for amending the Act of uniformity. There we have a good man and a good bill. Then there is Mr. Coleridge and his bill for opening the door of our Universities still wider, or rather, say, opening an inner door to Dissenters; and the bill of Mr. McCullagh Torrens, who proposes to increase the facilities for building artisans' dwellings; not to forget old Mr. Hadfield, to whom the people of England owe a much greater debt than they are aware of. A remarkable man is Mr. Hadfield. For acuteness, patient, untiring industry, watchfulness, and perseverance, he has scarcely a parallel in the House. But these and others like unto them are men of high class—men who never hatch trifles, but know what ought to be done, and how to do it. But for the most part our amateur legislators are very different persons from these. As a rule, your amateur legislator is a dullard, and, it may be, what Carlyle calls a "sand-bound pedant"—educated and even learned, perhaps, but dull. Given a restless, fidgety mind, and some ambition—or, call it vanity and conceit—and a voluble tongue, and you have the average amateur legislator: the man who would be always tinkering the British Constitution if he were permitted to do so, and make it worse for tinkering. But, happily, he is not permitted. However, he is not left entirely ungratified. If he is not allowed to legislate, he cannot be prevented from talking; and think, to such a man, what a luxury is that! We may venture to say that this talking is really pleasanter to him than legislating; perhaps, indeed, he proposed to legislate that he might get opportunities to talk.

CURIOUS ACCIDENT OR "SELL."

On Monday there was a pretty full House between four and five o'clock; but when the hand of the clock had crawled near five there was visibly an ebbing away of the members, the current setting in strongly towards the Upper House, and no wonder. Here we had only a Scotch reform bill by way of attraction; and a Scotch reform bill, he remembered, that is not to be passed this year; but only to be laid upon the table and printed, that Scotch members may take it home with them and ponder it before next Session. But in the Upper House there was a very strong attraction, for there the noble Premier was to move the second reading of the English Reform Bill, and offer battle to all comers. It was not surprising, then, that members glided away from their own chamber to the House of Lords. Besides, there was on that night a very uncommon scene in that House. It was full—full on the floor with peers; in the side galleries, with ladies; and, in short, in every part of it full. Such a sight has not been seen, we were told, for several years. Clearly, then, a House of Commons, with only a Scotch reform bill, could not resist the magnetic power at the other end of the palace. Perhaps it was owing to this that we had such a queer accident—or as some, in their street vernacular, called it "a sell"—in the Lower House; which accident we will now describe. Mr. Disraeli had, with some formality, given notice that on this Monday night he should move the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill (Scotland). "Good," said every Scotsman who has the gift of speech, mentally or audibly; "we must have a debate, and tell the Chancellor of the Exchequer a little bit of our mind." Eloquent Mr. Moncreiff, late Lord Advocate, and still recognised leader of the Liberal Scotch members, must have half an hour's say; Colonel Sykes, if we know anything of the gallant gentleman, would not be contented with less than an hour; Sir Edward Colebrook—solid Sir Edward—one of the best men of business in the House, had got many sound and excellent suggestions to make. Good Mr. Dunlop is, we fancy, gone home; neither did we see Mr. Baxter in his place. He too, perhaps, has taken his leave. But, certainly, Mr. Dalglish was ready with a speech, and a good speech; for he always speaks well, if we could but understand him; and as to Duncan McLaren, he, it was well known, had got together such a reservoir of statistics, that they could not possibly be exhausted by less than an hour's steady, even, onward flow. Well, then, here was clearly a night's talk before us—a night with Scotland—a regular fixed night for the Scotch members, a thing which they do not often get; and which, now they have got it, they will doubtless make the most of. But they didn't get it, after all—not five minutes of it, nor even a minute—but let it slip out of their hands, and irretrievably lost it. The case was this—and a singular case it is; unique, we believe; at all events, we never in our time saw exactly the like of it. Mr. Disraeli was to move the second reading of the bill; "and of course he will explain the bill." "Of course he will; for half an hour at least." And this being a fixed idea in the Scottish members' minds, they took no heed of the clerk when he called out the name of the bill. Why should they? Mr. Disraeli was to speak first, and it would be time enough for them to bestir themselves when he began. But he did not speak, not even to move the bill, but merely lifted his hat, as the form is; and as no Scotch members were listening to what was going on, and therefore nobody rose, Mr. Speaker put the question, and it was carried *sub silentio*; and the Scotch members were only roused to a sense of their ludicrous position by the roar of laughter which burst from all sides of the House, especially from the Ministers, Disraeli included, who really did for once in his life laugh outright. The surprise and dismay which

marked the countenances of the Scotch members when they discovered that the bill had passed the second reading must be imagined, for by no art possessed by us can it be described. Mr. Duncan McLaren was not in the House at the time. He, knowing, or thinking he knew, that his turn to speak could not possibly come for an hour or so, had gone out, perhaps to pick up another stray fact or two in the Library; or perhaps some friend from the north had come down specially to hear his member speak, and he had gone out to get said friend into the gallery; or perhaps—but what is the use of conjectures? He was not in the House at the nick of time. His papers and his hat were on his seat; but the papers were mere dry bones, without the prophet's breath, and the hat without the head could do nothing. When Mr. McLaren marched slowly back to his seat in his usually composed manner the Reform Bill had passed, and the clerk was reading the next order. Poor man! Fancy his confusion! What could it mean? "Mean? Why, whilst you have been out of the House, the bill has been passed." Yes, it was even so. For many long hours and hours he had been digging and boring for those statistics, and for long hours more had he been sedulously and artistically piecing and linking them together by conclusions and corollaries; and now that he had got them pieced and linked, and wound up, as it were, upon a reel, so that he could unwind them as a weaving-machine unwinds its thread, he finds all his labour vain. Mr. McLaren is not a splenetic man, but cold and immovable, or otherwise he would have burst into a passion. Still, he must have been very angry. Well, let him take comfort. These statistics will be needed some day, and Scotch statistics will keep. They are so dry that there is no fear of their perishing. And now our readers will like to know whether this was an accident or "a sell." We suspect it was of the nature of both. Disraeli, when he lifted his hat to move the bill, had no intention to sell the Scotch members; but when he saw how things were going, he seemed to enter into the humour of the scene and would not stir to prevent the accident, as he might have done. To this extent, then, this occurrence was "a sell."

JOHN HARDY.

Mrs. Malaprop used to say that "she never opened her mouth but she put her foot in it." Mr. John Hardy is very much like Mrs. Malaprop. So noted, indeed, has he become for his blundering escapades that the young members, ever on the look-out for fun, always hail him, as he rises, with a cheer; and, if anyone else gets up at the same time, cries of "Hardy! Hardy!" resound through the House, and the impertinent intruder between these frolicsome young fellows and their favourite is, if possible, put down. Mr. Hardy, though, must not be ranked with our funny men, whose ambition is to amuse us by their humour or wit, or, failing these, which are rare qualities in the House, by their buffoonery. Mr. Hardy is neither witty nor humorous, nor a droll; he is simply a sayer of audacious things and blunders, somewhat hot-headed—a choleric man, who speaks without thinking, and consequently, as Mrs. Malaprop would say, "puts his foot in it" unwittingly, and thus makes himself, one would think, the butt of those lively spirits in the House whose laughter a wise man of old would have likened to "the cracking of thorns under a pot." Mr. Hardy's blunders, though, are sometimes serious, and place him for a time in an awkward position. Thus it was on Monday night. On that night the Home Secretary (Mr. Hardy's brother, by-the-way) introduced his Royal Parks Bill. His statement on that occasion was calm, and even bland. To him Mr. Peter Taylor, on moving that the bill be read this day three months, had to reply; and, though he spoke vigorously, there was nothing in his speech to excite anger. Him Mr. Otway followed; and still all went on in an orderly manner. Suddenly, however, a small storm broke out. When Mr. Otway sat down, Mr. John Hardy rose and spouted out, in his usual abrupt manner, "The honourable member for Leicester said we want to put down public meetings." Whereupon Mr. Taylor: "I deny that." Mr. Hardy: "Deny that! then you will deny anything." "Order, order!" loudly ran along the Liberal benches; and unquestionably this was out of order; for, as our readers must see, this was really giving the member for Leicester the lie. But Mr. Hardy, nothing daunted, threw fuel on the fire by shouting out, "But I make every allowance for him, as the hon. member was chosen by the refuse of the constituency." This, of course, evoked quite a storm of cries, and Mr. Otway got up, and moved that the words be taken down. Frightful motion this used to be considered; though, for the life of us, we never could discover what dreadful thing would ensue if the words were to be taken down. But the words were not taken down; for, before the clerk could put pen to paper, our storm-queller, Mr. Speaker, rose, and at once there was a calm. He rose to rebuke Mr. Hardy; and with what dignity, and in what suitable words he did it! "The hon. member said he was aware that another hon. gentleman, the hon. member for Leicester, was returned by the refuse of the constituency. The honourable member for Leicester has been duly returned to the House, and that is not a proper way to speak of him." Then Mr. Hardy ought promptly to have risen, but he did not. On the contrary, he sat doggedly and defiantly in his place. But this would not do. The House knows well how to meet defiance; and at last, after one or two nudges and a reminder from the Speaker, his proud stomach gave way, and he ate his leek, or, in other words, withdrew the expression.

THE ABYSSINIANS.—As a general rule, they don't mind lying, and are indifferent to abuse; but they have the strongest possible objection to being laughed at. Progress they abhor; and, as standing still is difficult, they are for the most part travelling backwards. Still, they have many estimable qualities; the relations between parents and children are usually what they ought to be; and, if it happened that children showed a reluctance to maintain their parents, the law would compel them to do so. All property that a father may leave is divided equally among his children, and no distinction is made between them, whether they are born in wedlock or out of it. Marriage is a civil contract, capable of being dissolved with more than Prussian facility.—Once a Week.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.—The French Imperial steam-yacht Reine Hortense, with her Majesty the Empress of the French on board, arrived off Portsmouth early on Sunday morning from Havre, after a pleasant passage of eight hours, and anchored until afternoon in the vicinity of the Spit buoy. A party of ladies and gentlemen from the yacht, including, it was supposed, the Empress, landed at Southsea in the morning, and spent some time on the esplanade and common, and partook of luncheon at the Pier Hotel. Shortly before two p.m. the Reine Hortense again weighed her anchor, and steamed slowly past the fleet at Spithead for Osborne, where the Empress arrived on a visit to her Majesty the Queen soon after three p.m. As the Empress travelled incognito, the yacht hoisted no standard. Her Majesty re-embarked for France on Wednesday morning; the Queen, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princesses Louisa and Beatrice, and Prince Arthur accompanying the Empress to the pier.

THE FINE ARTS IN SCOTLAND.—The thirty-third annual meeting of the Royal Association for Promotion of the Fine Arts in Scotland was held at Edinburgh on Saturday. Mr. Glasford Bell, Sheriff of Lanarkshire, occupied the chair, and referred to the losses which Scottish art had sustained during the past year by the deaths of John Philip, Horatio Macculloch, and other eminent artists. Mr. Cornillon, secretary, read the annual report of the committee of management, which stated that the income had again exceeded £5000, and that the present position and prospects of the Association were satisfactory. The report stated the circumstances under which the committee had acquired for the National Gallery of Scotland John Philip's unfinished picture of "Spanish Boys Playing at Bull-fighting," at a cost of £900. From the recent exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy the committee had purchased for distribution, at a cost of £1841, forty-six works of art, consisting of a marble statue by William Brodie, thirty-four paintings, and eleven water-colour drawings. The principal paintings were, "In the West Highlands," by Macculloch, £150; "Hawthorned," 1618, by James Drummond, £150; "The Whisper," by William Douglas, £105; "The Highland Shepherd's Fireside," by R. T. Ross, £105. These works of art, with six original drawings in illustration of Scott's "Antiquary," and fifty copies of a statuette from Mr. Scott's statue of the late Professor Wilson, would be distributed by ballot. The engravings from the six drawings in illustration of "The Antiquary" would, it was hoped, be ready for issue to all the subscribers in September. A bonus work, consisting of engravings from six original drawings of "The Lady of the Lake," would be issued with next year's delivery to all subscribers of five years. The committee had selected "Rob Roy" as the subject for the volume to be delivered to the subscribers of 1868, and "Old Mortality" for the subscribers of 1869. In the subsequent year it was proposed to revert to the system of giving a large engraving. For next year's prize distribution, fifty copies would be given of a statuette from Brodie's statue, above referred to, of "Penelope, the Beggar Maid." The report was unanimously approved.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, yielding to the entreaties of the Earl of Derby and Earl Russell, withdrew the motion of which he had given notice in reference to the execution of Maximilian.

The Industrial Schools Bill was opposed by the Government, and finally rejected.

Replying to a question put by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Derby said the Spanish Government were about to grant a new trial in the case of the Tornado. The Duke of ARGYLL expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which the matter had been dealt with by the Government. It was, he added, much to be regretted that there was no law which could effectually put a stop to the fitting out of ships like the Tornado for service against a Power with which we were at peace.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONIAL GOVERNORS.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER asked the Under Secretary for the Colonies to lay upon the table the instructions sent to colonial Governors for their guidance in case of insurrection.

Mr. ADDERLEY explained that the instructions were sent out in confidential draught for consideration to the Governors of all the colonies. These instructions were not in the sense of pre-emptory regulations, but rather in the way of advice and caution to those Governors in case of insurrection. It was directed that no place should be proclaimed unless there was armed resistance to the law beyond the ordinary powers for suppression; that the proclaimed district should not extend further than was necessary; that the proclamation should be published by all possible means in the proclaimed district; that instructions should be given to the military authorities; that the civil magistrates should have no more than their ordinary powers; that troops should not be detached, except under the command of commissioned officers; that no punishment should be inflicted, except by the order of a court-martial composed of not less than three officers; that every facility should be given to prisoners to make their defence; and that no sentence of death should be pronounced except two thirds of the Court were in favour of it.

STORM WARNINGS.

Colonel SYKES moved, "That it is inexpedient to continue the present arrangements with the committee of the Royal Society at an expense of £10,000 per annum, the average cost of the meteorological department of the Board of Trade having been £4300 per annum." The gallant Colonel insisted that the storm warnings ought to be continued. Mr. CAVE and Mr. M. GIBSON both contended that the warnings were useless; and, after some discussion, Colonel Sykes withdrew his amendment.

CASE OF THE MERMAID.

Mr. HEADLAM then called attention to the papers concerning the destruction of the ship Mermaid by a shot from a Spanish fort, and moved an address to the effect that the demand for compensation was just and right, and that there was nothing in the correspondence to justify its withdrawal.

Lord STANLEY denied that the case was one in which England should adopt strong measures. We should not think of doing anything of the kind were one of the great Powers concerned, and there would be nothing creditable to England in attacking Spain.

Mr. NEATE and Sir R. PEEL protested against this answer; but it evidently had the approval of the House.

MONDAY, JULY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The Earl of DERBY, in moving the second reading of the Reform Bill, admitted that he should have been perfectly content to stand on the Act of 1832; but in the interval that had since elapsed a wide and deep-seated opinion had grown up in the public mind that all classes of the community were not adequately represented in the Legislature. However much, then, he might be inclined to deprecate change, he thought it was desirable that Parliament should not only fully and completely represent the opinions and interests, but that it should also enjoy the confidence, of all classes of the people. Passing in review the several abortive attempts which have been made of recent years to grapple with the question by successive Governments, and showing that a Conservative Ministry were as free to deal with it as their political opponents, the noble Earl turned aside to notice the amendment which Earl Grey had placed on the paper, respecting which he remarked that he could not believe its promoter intended it to defeat or even delay the bill of the Government. At the same time he reminded the noble Lord that the question then at issue was the principle of Reform. In justifying the Government for having introduced a scheme of Reform in the existing state of parties in the House of Commons, he claimed for them the credit of entertaining an honest and sincere desire to settle a question which, if left open much longer, promised not only to obstruct useful and pressing legislation, but to lead to dangerous agitation. With these feelings they determined to frame a measure on a broad and liberal basis, whilst conservative of the great principles of the Constitution, and likely to give satisfaction to all parties. In conclusion, he addressed a powerful and an eloquent appeal to their Lordships to give the Government and the bill their support.

Earl GREY said that he had not given notice of his amendment with the object of asking the House to absolutely reject the measure, faulty and even dangerous as he considered it to be, but to affirm the necessity of greatly amending it in Committee. As to his proposal being an insult to the House of Commons, it should be recollected that the bill had only been passed by a most extraordinary concurrence of circumstances, and he believed that fully two thirds of the Commons regarded the bill as so bad that they quite concurred in the views propounded by his resolution. After reviewing the provisions of the bill at considerable length, decanting on its defects and omissions, and complaining that the Government had dealt with the question in undue haste and on imperfect information, the noble Earl moved, "That the bill to amend the laws relating to the representation of the people in England and Wales, to which it is asked to assent, does not appear to this House to be calculated in its present shape to effect a permanent settlement of this important question or to promote the future good government of the country; but the House, recognising the urgent necessity for the passing of a bill to amend the existing system of representation, will not refuse to give a second reading to that which has been brought to it from the House of Commons, in the hope that in its future stages it may be found possible to correct some of its faults and to render it better fitted to accomplish the proper objects of such a measure." Towards the close of the noble Earl's speech he became so completely exhausted that he was inaudible to all but a few peers who were sitting in his immediate vicinity; and, upon concluding, he was so utterly prostrate that he had to be led from the House by Lord Halifax and another friend. The noble Earl, however, resumed his seat at a later period of the evening.

The debate was continued by Lord Ravensworth, the Earl of Morley, Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Duke of Rutland, &c., and was continued till a late hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER made an announcement as to the business of the Session. First, nine bills were at once to be withdrawn; others were only to be proceeded with as might be convenient, and the remaining votes in Supply would be taken before the end of next week.

THE SCOTTISH REFORM BILL.

The first order on the paper was the second reading of the Scotch Reform Bill. There had been an understanding with the Scotch members that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should move the second reading in a speech in which he should state what parts of the scheme were to be modified. Instead of doing so he never rose, but moved the second reading from his seat. The Scotch members were all unprepared, and before anything could be done the Speaker had put the question and declared it carried. Later Sir Andrew Agnew appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to tell the House something about the intentions of the Government as to the bill. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he should put down the bill for Committee on Monday night—of course, not to be then gone on with, and perhaps he might state whether the bill would be reprinted.

THE PUBLIC PARKS BILL.

Mr. G. HARDY, in moving the second reading of the Meetings in Royal Parks Bill, contended that the Crown had a right to the parks, and was therefore entitled to annex conditions to the entrance of the people, and to remove them if they did not observe those conditions. The bill, therefore, enacted that the same protection should be given to the London parks that was now enjoyed by similar places in the provinces, so that they should not be misapplied to political and religious meetings and other equally objectionable purposes. It provided that any meeting held in them without the permission of the Crown should be treated as an unlawful assembly, punishable as a misdemeanour with fine or imprisonment, and that the First Commissioner of Works might lay down by-laws, the breach of which would be visited by a small pecuniary fine.

Mr. TAYLOR condemned the bill as an innovation, and moved that it be read the second time that day three months.

Mr. NEATE, who pronounced the bill inadequate for its avowed object, held that it was not expedient to deal with the subject of public meetings in the metropolis with reference only to Royal parks.

Mr. NEWDEGATE concurred in the view expressed by Mr. Neate, and said that instead of vesting discretionary powers in the Department of Works he preferred the extension of the old Act of George III. and the prohibition of all public meetings within three miles of the Houses of Parliament.

After some further discussion the House divided, and the second reading was carried by 181 to 64.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and proceeded with the further consideration of the Civil Service Estimates.

TUESDAY, JULY 23.
HOUSE OF LORDS.
THE REFORM BILL.

The debate on the second reading of the Reform Bill was resumed by The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, who, observing on the peculiar position in which their Lordships were placed—that they did not intend to reject the measure, although they did not approve and were incompetent to amend it—expressed his regret that the Premier had not given an assurance that in his opinion the bill would effect great good to the country. Speaking for himself, he was not hostile to Reform, which, whilst not absolutely necessary for good government, was, nevertheless, he admitted, inevitable; but his idea was that the suffrage should rather be held up to the working man as a reward for thrift, sobriety, and industry. On this ground, therefore, he would have preferred the bill of last year. The bill was a stepping-stone to universal suffrage. Henceforth democratic influence would be paramount in the country, for with it it would be impossible for the hereditary peerage and our monarchical institutions to work harmoniously.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, addressing to Earl Grey's resolution, described it as vague and indefinite, and as having already served its purpose of securing the thorough discussion of the bill. He regretted, therefore, that the noble Earl had not announced his intention to withdraw it. One by one the learned Lord then proceeded to reply to each of the propositions contained in the resolution. In his view the bill possessed the elements of stability as much as any measure of the kind could do; and he contended that a Conservative Government had a perfect right to grapple with the question after the repeated failures of their predecessors, and that the scheme before their Lordships came recommended to their approval as furnishing the only possible solution of the difficulty. For, broad and liberal as it undoubtedly was, it was at the same time based on the old Constitutional principle of taxation and the discharge of public duties.

The debate was continued by the Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Faversham, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Cairns, Earl Russell, &c. Ultimately Earl Grey's resolution was negatived without a division, and the bill read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ROYAL PARKS BILL.

Mr. HARDY proposed that the Meetings in Royal Parks Bill should be committed *pro forma*, with a view to having it reprinted in order to have certain amendments inserted.

Mr. NEWDEGATE earnestly urged upon the House that, whatever provision might be made respecting public meetings, the right of public meeting should not be invalidated by vesting the discretion of allowing it to take place or not in any Government officer.

The House then went into Committee for the purpose suggested by the Home Secretary, and immediately resumed.

THE TORNADO CASE.

Mr. GREGORY called attention to the cases of the Tornado and Victoria. The case made by the hon. gentleman was that the Tornado, like the Cyclone, was fitted out in this country for the Chilean Government, and really belonged to the Chilean navy. The only difference was that the Cyclone had escaped the Spanish cruisers, and now formed one of the Chilean war fleet; and that the Tornado, less lucky, had fallen into the power of the Spaniards. He therefore submitted that the Tornado was contraband, and that the Spaniards acted rightly in seizing her. The case of the Victoria was, he admitted, totally and entirely different, though it had been improperly mixed up with the Tornado. No doubt, in the case of the Victoria, the authorities at Cadiz were in the wrong; and, as far as he could understand, the Spanish Government never held out on that question. He had been in Spain, and could observe there the existence of a feeling of great soreness towards England, arising, to a great extent, from hearing the drums and bugles of a foreign nation on the ramparts of Gibraltar, and from knowing that the guns of Gibraltar were employed for the protection of smugglers on the Spanish coast.

Sir ROUNDELL PALMER contended that it was an error on the part of the Foreign Secretary to dictate the mode of procedure to the Spanish Government, though he admitted at first it appeared that the judgment originally pronounced in the Spanish court was a judgment of condemnation, whereas it was not really so, and when the noble Lord was apprised of that fact he should have seen that all right on the part of her Majesty's Government to dictate to the Spanish Government had disappeared.

Lord STANLEY observed that with regard to the Victoria the claim made upon the Spaniards had not been disputed, but the settlement was so long delayed that it had become necessary to urge it in an emphatic manner. As to the Tornado, he declined to enter into the merits of the case whilst the matter was under judicial consideration. The Government had taken all the steps they deemed requisite, and with a view to preventing the recurrence of these contentions the whole subject of our neutrality laws was under consideration. He did not blame the Spanish authorities for seizing the Tornado, but he thought the crew had been treated with undue severity, and if their detention had been continued he believed there would have been such a state of public feeling in this country that it would have been impossible to settle the question amicably. The present position of the matter was that the Spanish Government admitted the nullity of the previous proceedings, and the case was in the hands of the Minister of Marine, and an early, if not an immediate, decision might be expected.

THE GREEK BLOCKADE-RUNNER ARKADI.

Lord STANLEY, in reply to Mr. Layard, said there seemed to be little doubt that the Greek blockade-runner Arkadi had fired upon a Turkish cruiser, and thus committed a breach of international law. The Turkish cruiser, however, followed the Arkadi into Greek waters, and thus committed a breach of international law. Her Majesty's Government did not intend to interfere.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN ROUMANIA.

Lord STANLEY gave an assurance, on behalf of the Government, in reply to an inquiry by Mr. Alderman Salomons, that they would not relax in their exertions to induce the Roumanian authorities to repress the outrages which were being committed on the Jewish community in the Danubian Principalities.

THE SLAVE-TRADE SQUADRON.

After a long and rather dull discussion on the mortality in the slave-trade squadron, the House was counted out, at five minutes to eight o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

A debate, commenced many weeks since, respecting Trinity College, Dublin, was resumed. The question was originally brought before the House by Mr. Fawcett, who asked the House to declare by resolution that "It is undesirable that the fellowships and foundation scholarships of Trinity College, Dublin, should be exclusively appropriated to those who are members of the Established Church;" whereupon Mr. Monsell proposed to the House to omit these words, and declare that "The constitution of the University of Dublin should be altered so as to enable and fit it to include colleges connected with other forms of religion than that of the Established Church, and that the members of such colleges should be entitled to share in all the benefits now enjoyed by the members of Trinity College."

The debate was reopened by Mr. H. A. BRUCE, who announced his intention to support the amendment of Mr. Monsell. In the debate that ensued Mr. O'Reilly advocated separate education for the Roman Catholics. Mr. Pim, Mr. Graves, Mr. M'Laren, and Mr. Chichester Fortescue spoke, and the interests of Trinity College were defended with great earnestness by its representative, the Irish Attorney-General. Eventually Mr. Monsell withdrew his amendment, and on a division on Mr. Fawcett's motion the numbers were equal, 108 voting on each side. The Speaker gave his vote against the resolution, on the ground that it was an abstract proposition, and thus it was lost.

CHURCH RATES, ETC.

The Church Rates Abolition Bill was read the third time and passed, after some discussion, by 129 votes to 99.

Subsequently some progress was made in Committee with the Sunday Trading Bill.

THURSDAY, JULY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

Viscount HALIFAX gave notice that in Committee on this bill he should move a resolution respecting the amendment of the scheme of redistribution. The Banns of Matrimony Bill was read the second time.

TESTS ABOLITION (OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE) BILL.

The Duke of KIMBERLEY moved the second reading of this bill. The Duke of MARLBOROUGH said he must oppose the bill because it asked the House to reopen a question which had been settled by Parliament, in one case eleven years, and in the other thirteen years, ago without stating any sufficient reason for asking that House and Parliament to review the decision. The mover of the bill in the House of Commons with great candour admitted that the bill would destroy the exclusive character of the Universities, would separate them from the Church of England, and, in fact, would entirely change the constitution of those institutions. It was because he was opposed to the change of the constitution of the Universities that he moved that the bill be read the second time that day three months.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE supported the bill, and contended that it would not at all affect the religious character of the Universities in question.

After a lengthened discussion, Earl RUSSELL said there had been a great change in public opinion on this subject since the days of Mary, Elizabeth, and Cromwell; and the time had come when those institutions, which were lay institutions, should be taken out of the monopoly of the Church and thrown open to persons of every denomination.

After a few words from Lord Denbigh and Lord Denman, the House divided, when the numbers were, for the second reading:—Contents, 46; Non-contents, 74: majority against the bill, 28. The bill was therefore lost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

On going into Committee on these estimates, Lord ELCHO rose to move that, inasmuch as it is the ancient and undoubted prerogative of the Crown to require the military service of its liege subjects, and inasmuch as liability to personal service within the limits of the United Kingdom has always been and still is the principle on which the militia force is founded, it is desirable, in framing any scheme for the establishment of an army of reserve and for the more complete and economical organisation of the military capabilities and defensive power of the nation, to consider how far this ancient principle should be practically enforced, and how it can be best applied with least inconvenience to the people. That it is further desirable, with a view to the more full and deliberate consideration of this important subject, that the Army Reserve and Militia Reserve Bills should be withdrawn for the present Session of Parliament.

The Speaker having ruled that the first part of the motion only could be put, and not that portion which referred to bills standing on the paper for discussion,

Sir J. PAKINGTON said he could not agree with his noble friend that the time had come when it was necessary that they should recur to the ballot. The militia, he contended, was not short in numbers, and, in addition, they had a large force of volunteers.

The motion was ultimately withdrawn.

SUPPLY.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, in moving a vote of £83,250 for increase of pay to the militia entered into an elaborate statement in respect to his plan for the establishment of a reserve force of 80,000 men, to be formed both from the ranks of the regular army and the militia, 50,000 of which would be liable to serve in all portions of the world, and 30,000 to serve only within the kingdom. The estimated cost of this force was £215,775.

After some discussion the vote was agreed to, as was also a vote of £20,000 to defray the charge and additional pay to the army and reserve force.

The Army Reserve Bill and the Militia Reserve Bill, which were framed to give effect to the scheme of the right hon. gentleman, were then severally read the second time.

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HOME TOPICS.

It is curious to observe that the debate on the Reform Bill in the House of Lords, as well as that on the third reading in the House of Commons, mainly turned, not upon the merits of the measure, but upon the character and conduct of those by whom it has been brought in and supported. Much grave moralising has been indulged in touching the abandonment of their ancient principles by the Government and their supporters, and the injury which, it is alleged, has thereby been inflicted upon Government by party and on the confidence that ought to be reposed in public men. In fact, the speeches delivered have been more personal than statesmanlike in their tone. That the bill must pass is accepted as a foregone conclusion, and its provisions have consequently received but little attention. But the conduct of its promoters was open to criticism, and has been criticised accordingly. This course may be quite justifiable in a party point of view, but we submit that it is not very profitable. It is easy to show that Lord Derby, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, Sir Stafford Northcote, and others, have belied their previous professions, if not deserted their previous principles; but, after all, does that matter much? A Reform Bill had to be passed by somebody, and, as it happened, the Conservatives were in the best position to perform the work. The Earl of Derby in the Lords, notwithstanding some defections from the ranks of his adherents, commands a larger measure of support than his opponents. Mr. Disraeli in the Commons led not only the bulk of his own party, but he necessarily received the aid of the Liberals also in carrying out their own principles. This was an advantage that neither Mr. Gladstone nor any other Liberal Minister could have enjoyed. It would have been utterly impossible for a Whig or Liberal to persuade the Tories to accept such a measure as that which Mr. Disraeli has induced them to pass. And like things have occurred in British Parliamentary history before. It was thus that Catholic Emancipation and Corn-law repeal were obtained. Sir Robert Peel had during all his previous life strenuously opposed both measures, and yet he was destined to be nominally the author of those important steps in political progress. He was overmastered by the force of circumstances then, and so are the Conservatives now. Influences which they cannot longer resist have converted the great anti-Reform party into extreme Reformers; and, if the result be a boon to the community, it is absurd to quarrel with it because of the persons by whom it has been conferred. It is enough to know that the object of years of agitation has been attained. Therewith let us "rest and be thankful." Public men may be left to take care of their own characters; and as for government by party, if it only means government *for* party, it seems to us that the community at large have little interest in its maintenance.

Other themes will now claim public attention, and to the consideration of these all parties must address themselves. We may be sure that agitation and party conflicts will not cease with the passing of a reform bill. Nor is it desirable that they should. Stagnation is not a healthy condition for a community to be in; and, while abuses and defects exist, indifference should never be allowed to exist in a Parliament-governed State. Discussion, agitation, party conflicts, must and will go on until our institutions have attained to a millennial state of perfection; if

such a state be at all attainable. They certainly are very far from such a condition as yet. There is plenty of scope left for improvement, and plenty of other things want reforming as well as Parliament. The Reform Bill itself may, ere long, be found to require reconsideration, or at least completion. The state of the Irish Church, and probably the relations between Church and State generally, will certainly undergo investigation and revision. Indeed, the alarm on this subject has already been sounded, and Conservative organs and ultra-Church partisans are raising their banners and indicating the policy they mean to pursue. "No surrender" is likely to be the cry heard on this subject too; and it will be a curious, but by no means impossible, event if the Conservatives, after years of violent opposition, should ultimately be the parties to radically reform, perhaps even abolish, our ecclesiastical establishments both in Ireland and England. We have witnessed as unlikely occurrences, and notably in this present Session. Then, there are abuses in the army, the navy, the law, and elsewhere, to be reformed, which will fully occupy the attention of Parliament, both before and after the new order of things comes into operation. Next Session may perhaps be a dull one; but, now that the Reform question is for a time out of the way, and if moribund influences do not weigh too heavily upon it, the existing House of Commons may signalise its close by much useful practical legislation.

Of specially social matters, the constitution and management of great companies, and the way in which they subserve the interests of the public, will probably receive an immediate and important share of attention. These things are in a far from satisfactory condition at present. The community is company-ridden; the affairs of the companies themselves are badly managed; and the public, as a natural consequence, is badly served. We refer particularly, of course, to railway companies, several of which are bankrupt, and none so prosperous or useful as they ought to be. Directors have abused their powers, ruined their shareholders, and over-charge their customers; a minimum of accommodation only being furnished, while a maximum of fare is exacted. It is a fact that on English railways the fares are higher and the accommodation worse than in any other country in the world. Trains are habitually unpunctual, carriages are bad, and often too few in number for the traffic, and the lives and limbs of passengers are insufficiently cared for. In point of speed only do British railways excel those of other countries, and that is in most cases purchased at the expense of safety. The cause of all this is, of course, that the folly and extravagance of directors render parsimony and exaction in other directions necessary in order to balance accounts. Hence high fares and bad accommodation; hence small, confined, choky, uncomfortable, overcrowded carriages; hence irregularity in keeping time; hence the maintenance of insufficient, underpaid, overworked, and incapable staffs of servants; and hence accidents, maiming, and death. All this requires reform, which we hope soon to see applied.

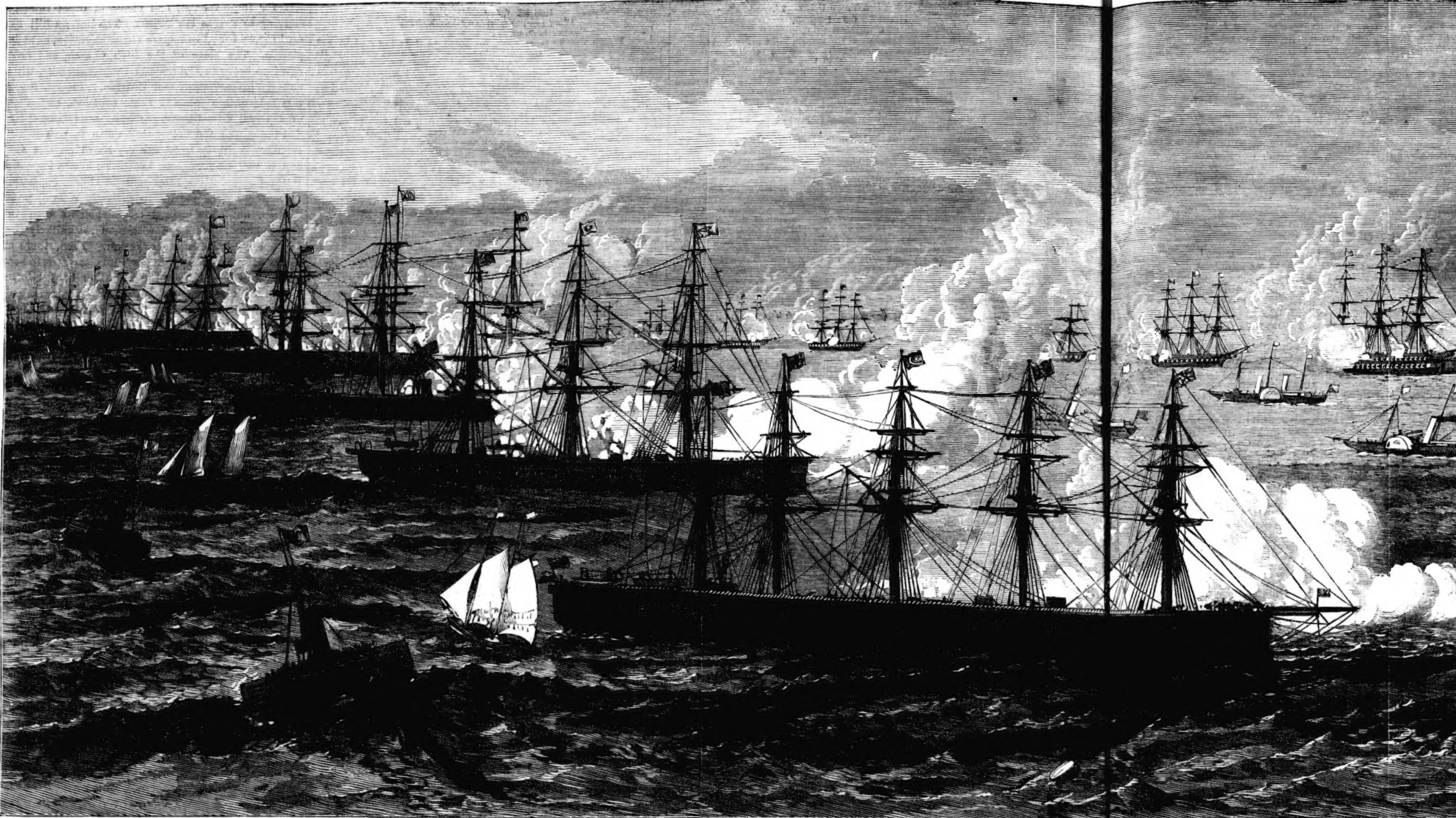
One would have thought that the experience of the Government on the subject of meetings in the parks would have taught them the wisdom of the proverb touching the propriety of letting "sleeping dogs lie." The fiascos of this and last year would speedily have been forgotten did not Ministers persist in pressing on their bill for preventing meetings in the parks, the provisions of which are faulty and pernicious in a high degree. The bill does not define the nature of the assemblages to be prohibited, but leaves police and Government officials to exercise their discretion on the point. Past experience shows how little official judgment is to be trusted in such matters. If we must legislate in regard to the public parks and public meetings therein, that legislation ought to be of the most distinct and definite character. The public should be called upon to obey law, and not the arbitrary whims of blundering irresponsible officials. But, as we have heretofore maintained, we do not think any legislation—or, indeed, any interference at all—is needed. It will only be on special occasions and under exceptional circumstances that large outdoor assemblages will be held; these occasions will, probably, now be more rare than ever; and when they do arise, the parks are the places where large gatherings can, with least inconvenience, take place. Mere demonstrations of numbers, processions, and so forth, may be very foolish things, as a rule; but they may sometimes be necessary—they have been so; and when they are, masses of men gathered together cause less obstruction and annoyance to others in the parks than by perambulating the streets. To attempt putting down such demonstrations altogether, is to interfere with the right of public meeting; and that is a thing not likely to be submitted to in this country. It would therefore be wiser, we think, to leave the law in regard to the parks as it is, and to deal discreetly with future contingencies as they arise.

A GENERAL MEETING of the schoolmasters of the Austrian empire is to be held at Vienna on Sept. 6. The first question it will have to study is the following:—"Is primary instruction in Austria what it ought to be; and, if not, what are the measures that should be taken to reorganise it?"

THE AMERICAN 15-INCH RODMAN GUN was tried, on Wednesday, against the 8-in. target at Shoeburyness, with so great effect that it may be said to have proved its capability of penetrating any of our ironclads afloat at a range of 70 yards.

A MEETING OF LIBERAL PEERS was held at Lord Russell's residence, on Wednesday afternoon, to consider the course to be pursued in Committee on the Reform Bill. In the meanwhile, the redistribution part of the measure has necessarily engaged close attention, and it is probable that the discussions on the subject will have practical fruit, at least in an amendment proposing to disfranchise some of the smaller boroughs.

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE EXPENSE attending the reception of the Sovereigns and Princes in Paris, the Imperial civil list has exceeded its ordinary amount by some millions. The Emperor, it is said, intends to provide for this excess of expenditure by payments spreading over two or three years, without having recourse to a loan. It is said that the cost of the entertainment of Sovereigns and Princes will exceed the sum of two millions sterling.



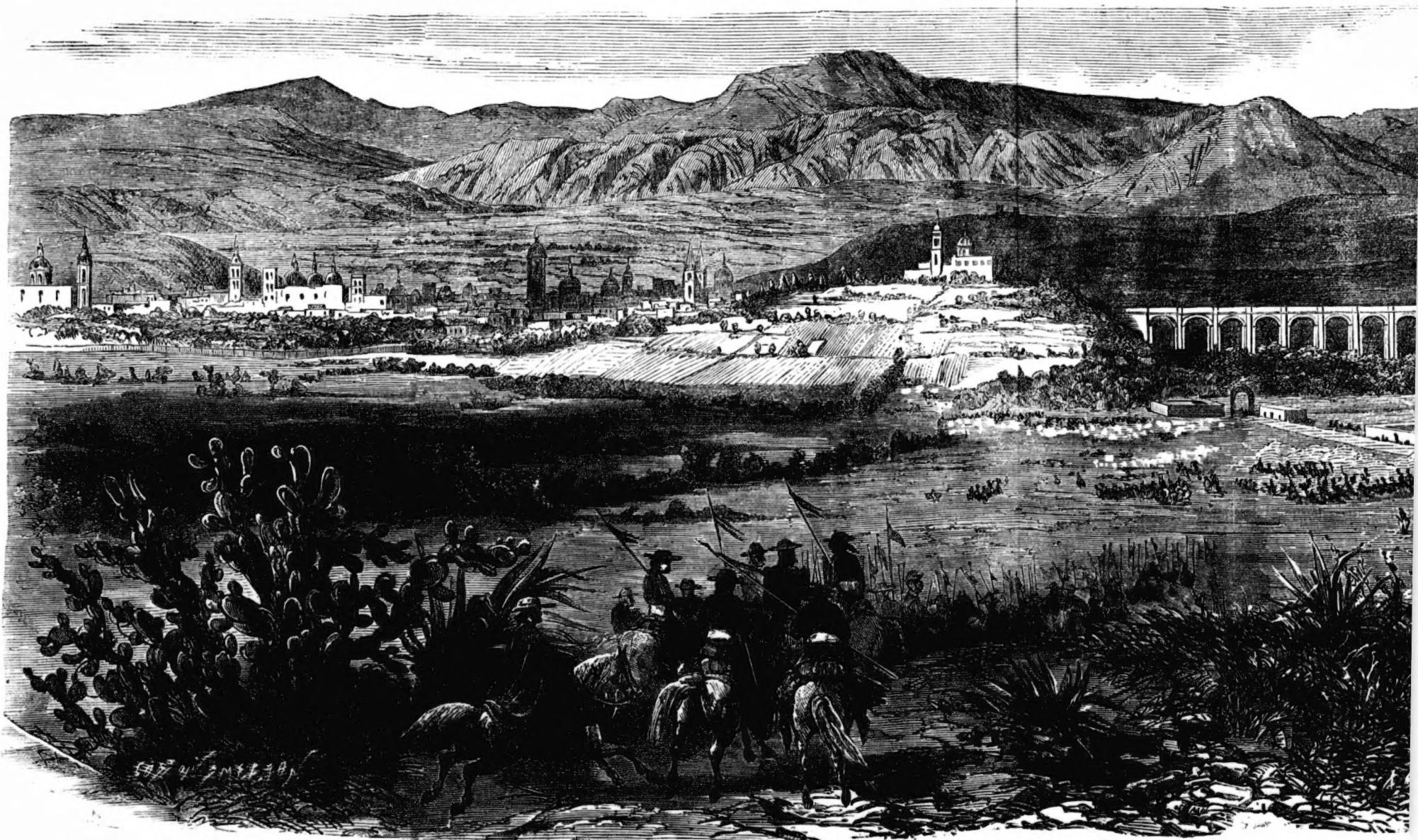
THE NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD: PROMENADE OF THE ROYAL YACHTS THROUGH THE FLEET.

THE NAVAL REVIEW.

OUR last week's Number contained a full account of the naval review at Spithead in honour of his Majesty the Sultan; and we now publish an Engraving illustrative of the imposing display. The scene depicted in our Engraving is the promenade of the Royal yachts through the fleet, the ponderous ironclads being ranged in line on the right, and the wooden squadron on the left of the illustrious visitors as they steamed through the avenue kept clear for their passage.

QUERETARO, THE SCENE OF THE DEATH OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.

THE recent tragedy which has thrown the principal Royal families of Europe into mourning will cause the strange Mexican city where it was enacted to occupy a place of at least temporary interest in the public estimation. Not that Queretaro is in itself insignificant, but it is remote; and there hangs over it that haze of unreality which somehow belongs to all these Mexican towns that we have read of in the novels of Captain Mayne Reid, or in a few books of travel, as interesting as novels; towns scarcely believed in as positive agglomerations of adobe or sun-dried brick, stone, mortar, timber market-places, public squares, guardhouses, theatres, and churches. In truth, however, the city or town of Queretaro is, with its suburbs, a place of great importance, containing some 60,000 inhabitants, and may be called the capital of the Great Plain from which it takes its name—a vast table-land, extending to the ridge of the Sierra Madre, and a portion of it, at least, 6500 ft. above the sea level, while the short ranges of hills which break its surface, rise from 1000 ft. to 1500 ft. above the plain. This plain, which is but a portion of the great table-land of Anahuac, contains in its centre one of the richest agricultural districts in the Mexican isthmus, known by the name of Bajío, thirty miles in width, and extending for a hundred miles from the neighbourhood of Queretaro, along the Rio Santiago, and thence in a northern direction to Leon. On this table-land the barrancas are more frequent than in any other part of the country. A barranca is a depression in the level plain, having always a steep declivity, and descending often for 1000 ft. below the ordinary surface. These depressions are sometimes three or four miles wide, and still longer; they are covered with trees of vigorous growth, and their climate is milder than that of the surrounding country. Vegetation follows in the courses of the little streams flowing through these barrancas, and the smaller towns are frequently built there. By far

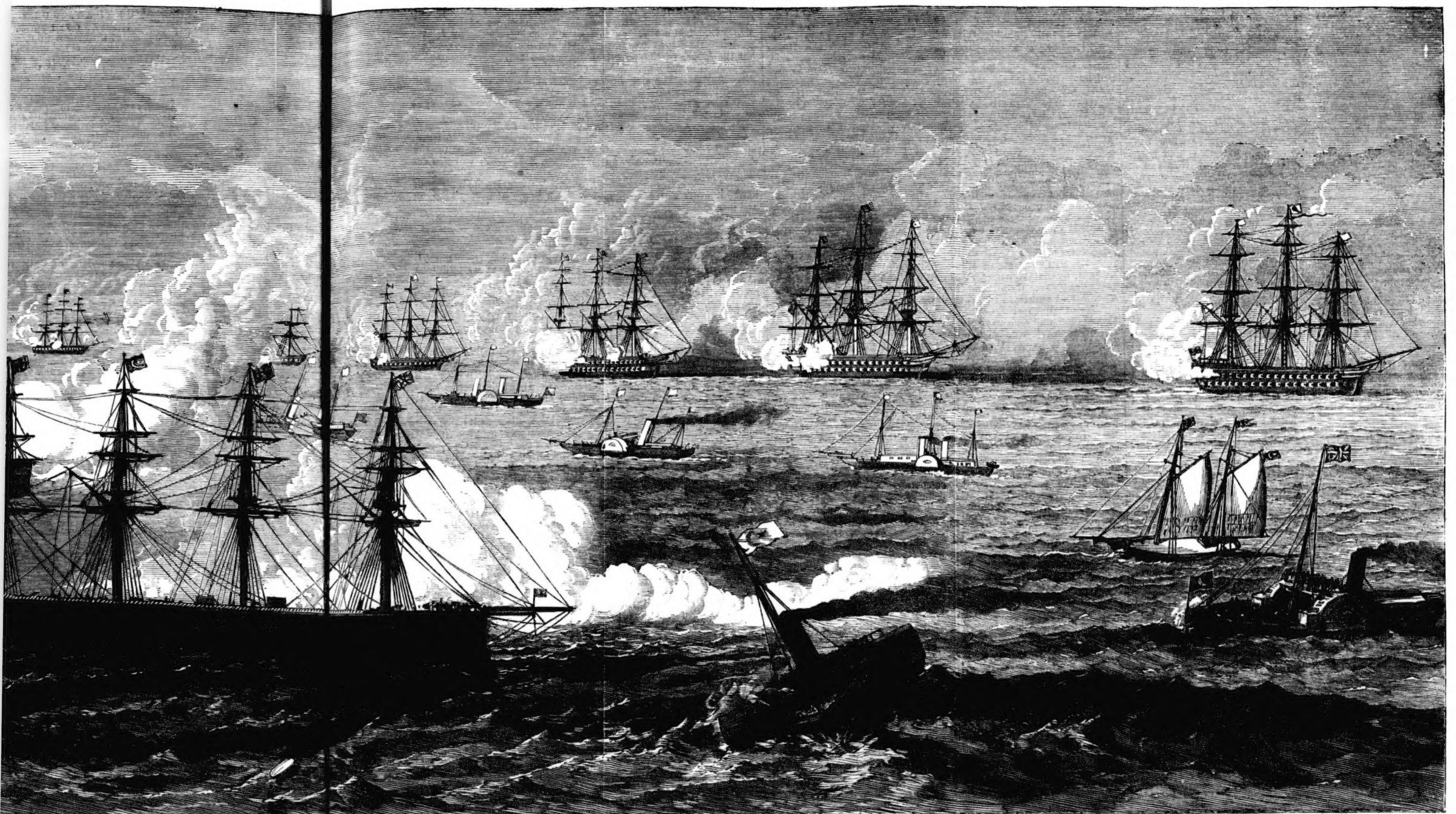


THE ALAMEDA.

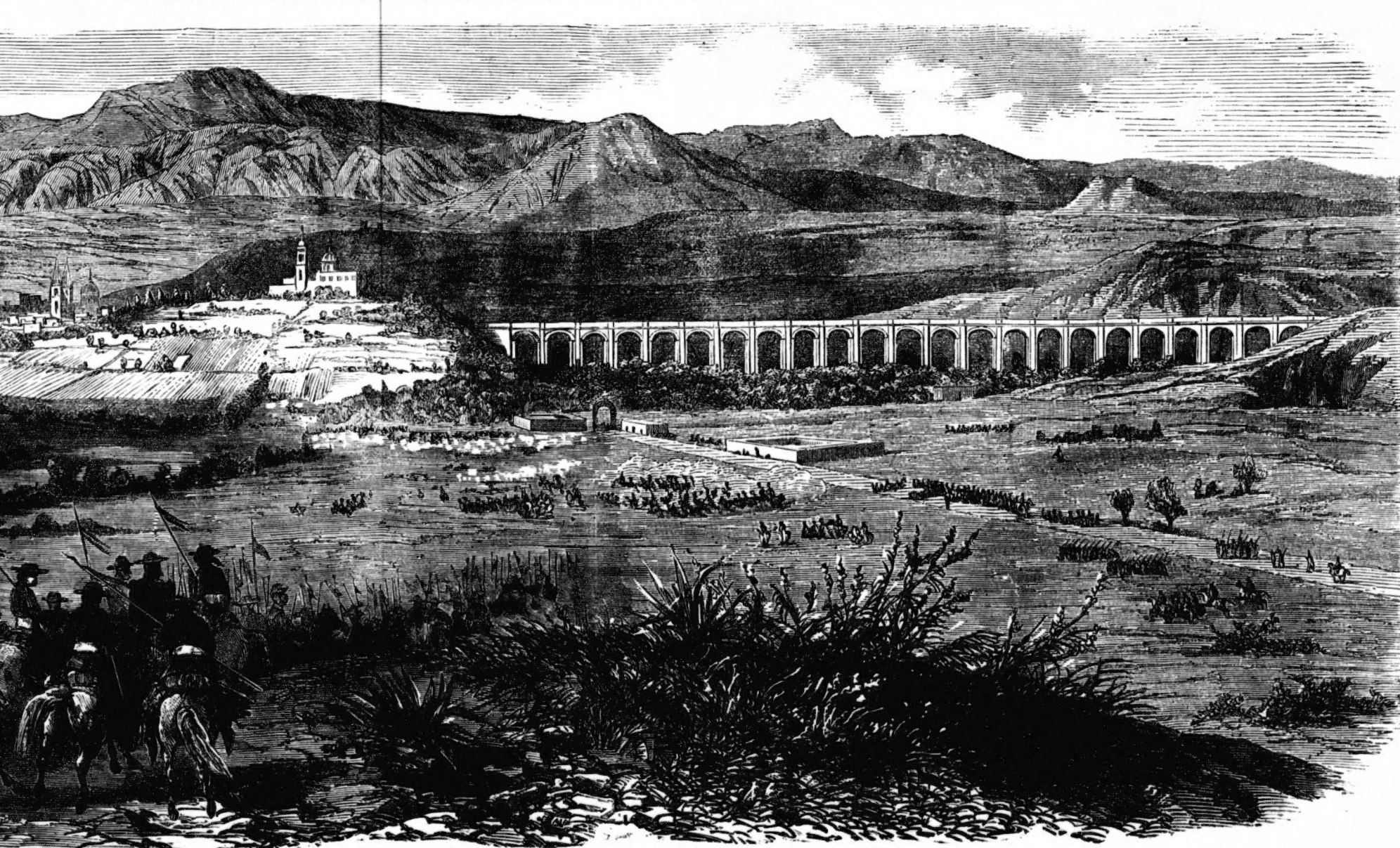
CONVENT OF SAN FRANCISCO.

CONVENT DE LA CRUZ.

THE CITY OF QUERETARA, MEXICO, THE SCENE OF THE EXECUTION OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.



THE NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD: PROMENADE OF THE ROYAL YACHTS THROUGH THE FLEET.



CONVENT DE LA CRUZ.

THE CITY OF QUERETARA, MEXICO, THE SCENE OF THE EXECUTION OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.

the greater part of the country, however, cannot be irrigated even by the *presas*, or reservoirs of rain water; and it is therefore used only as pasture-ground for the immense herds of half-wild cattle or small, lean sheep.

The town of Queretaro is situated on this table-land, at an elevation of more than 6000 ft. above the sea, on the slope of a hill, shaded on the north and south by a mountain, from which may be seen a luxuriant valley, watered by subterranean canals and artificial conduits, serving for the irrigation of the country, as well as for supplying water to 2000 houses. One of these conduits is a remarkable aqueduct, consisting of more than forty arcades of above 60 ft. in height. Queretaro, which formerly shared the reputation, with La Puebla de los Angeles, of being the most fanatical town in fanatical Mexico, comprehends two parishes, and has six monasteries and three convents, a college, and a hospital. The most important points of the town may be seen in our largest Engraving, particularly the Alameda, or great promenade, the Convent of San Francisco, and that of Santa Cruz, where the terrible tragedy of the death of the late Emperor commenced. Our other Engraving represents the market-place of the city, and the ruins in the centre are the remains of the ancient Convent of San Francisco, which has lately been turned into a fountain, in the principal square, which is the ordinary place for the public execution of criminals; so that if Maximilian had been hot publicly his death would have taken place at this spot, against the wall of the Convent of San Francisco.

Queretaro was formerly celebrated for the manufacture of cloth; but that branch of industry has declined, though cotton and woollen stuffs are still made there. Humboldt says that the value of the goods manufactured at Queretaro at the end of the last century amounted annually to 600,000 Spanish dollars, or £135,000, and a good many mantas and rebozos are still made there, and retailed in the great plaza at an evening market sometimes held by torch-light. It is in corn and potatoes that the great trade of this town consists, however; for it is in that great fertile district of the Baxio, and large quantities of provisions are sent thence to the mines. Perhaps the finest public buildings in Queretaro are the churches of Guadalupe and the convents of San Francisco and Santa Clara, the latter a ladies' conventual school as well as a regular nunnery. The water supplied by the magnificent aqueduct already mentioned comes from a spring in the mountains about ten miles distant. About three or four miles from the town is one of those deep depressions which fre-

quently occur in the table-land, and are clothed with the vegetation of the *tierra caliente*. This depression, called El Pared de la Canada, forms an agreeable promenade, to which the people of Queretaro resort. The irregular streets and squares of this town, to be known henceforth as the last refuge of the unfortunate Maximilian, abound with fine buildings and good shops; but the suburbs are still wretched, and, like those of all Mexican towns, are encumbered with the mere mud huts of the Indians. A most amusing book written by Mr. Hardy so many years ago disposes of Queretaro in a few lines, and his observations are still not unjust, while they conclude with a remark which has just been verified by some of our most sagacious architects. He says, "There is a remarkably good *meson* and baths at this place, but every article in the shape of food is very dear. There are plenty of bugs, however, to be had gratis. It is a curious circumstance—which was pointed out to me in Sonora, and which I have always found correct—that houses, the walls of which have been built with a cement composed of mud, or mortar and horse-litter, are apt to breed an extraordinary quantity of that sort of vermin. And I should not be surprised if the reason why some of the London houses are infested with those creatures were that the mortar may have been mixed up with road-sand or other dirt, which probably might contain a portion of the ingredient that is known to generate, or at least to encourage, them in Mexico."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY will return to Windsor about Aug. 20, and remain at the castle three days, when the Court will leave for Scotland, and will not return before the latter end of September or the first week in October.

THE QUEEN has nominated the Prince of Wales to be a Knight of the most ancient Order of the Thistle.

THE POPE has signified his intention of passing a few days on the borders of the Lake of Albano, in the Roman Campagna, for repose from his recent fatigues.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has had built forty-eight houses, at a cost of £20,000, as model houses for the poor, and has now presented them a free gift to a co-operative society of working men for the construction of cheap dwellings.

DR. ALEXANDER, Dean of Emly, has been nominated to the vacant bishopric of Derry.

VISCOUNT RANELAGH is to be a candidate for the representation of the new borough of Chelsea.

ABOUT FORTY BELGIAN RIFLEMEN arrived at Manchester on Monday, on a visit to that town, and forty or fifty visited Derby.

MR. LLOYD GARRISON has been presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh, in recognition of his anti-slavery labours.

A SUBSCRIPTION to erect a statue to the Emperor Maximilian has been organised at Trieste.

THE DEATH is announced of Mrs. Phelps, the wife of Mr. Samuel Phelps, the eminent actor. She had been for some time past in declining health.

THE "CHIGNON" is not a modern invention. In 1690 it was called "choix"—Angled, cabbage.

THE COMING FINE-ARTS EXHIBITION AT LEEDS is to be a very extensive and imposing affair. The galleries will be of great extent and divided into well-defined sections. The galleries devoted to the old masters alone will be 360 ft. in length.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ROME and the Centre of Insurrection, in both which bodies dissensions had arisen, have voluntarily dissolved, and have united in a new organisation, called the Roman National Junta.

WALTER GRAHAM, who was apprehended on a charge of attempting to blow up the Exeter theatre by a gas explosion, has been committed for trial at the assizes.

THE GERMANS residing in China have sent to Count Bismarck, as a mark of their admiration, a silver-gilt cup, weighing 6 lb., of elegant workmanship.

A LOCAL PAPER DESCRIBES A FIGHT somewhere in the west of Ireland, which was of such astounding severity that the "large stones flung by the combatants at each other's heads" were found in the field of battle "saturated with blood!" The heads must be very hard, or the stones very soft!

A RECENT MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENT in a New York paper was for a husband "having a Roman nose with strong religious tendencies."

THE ACCLIMATISATION OF SALMON seems now to be an established fact in Tasmania, and fine fish have been captured in and returned to the Yarra, in Victoria.

A SWEDISH TENOR, Herr Labatt, a singer of great popularity at the Royal Theatre at Stockholm, has entered into an engagement to appear at Her Majesty's Theatre next summer.

THE MANCHESTER UNITY ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS in Victoria numbers at the present time 10,250 brethren, with a gross total of funds amounting to £80,297 11s.

JUAREZ, it is said, has intimated to the United States Government his willingness to give up the body of Maximilian. It is added that an officer of the United States navy will accompany Admiral Togo to Queretaro.

BIRTH CARDS are now issued in the following style:—"Monsieur de X—has the honour to inform you of his birth, which took place the other day. He and his mother are as well as may be expected."

AMERICAN advices continue favourable with regard to the prospects of the grain crops in most sections of the country. In California it is said the yield is unprecedented, and "the great want is sufficient shipping to carry the surplus to foreign markets."

AN ENGLISHMAN, who confessed to be dreadfully out-of-elbows as concerned his French, addressed a waiter thus:—"Gosson, donnez more du ving blanc?" "Could you make it convenient to speak English?" replied the *garçon*, "I've only been 'ere eight days."

GENERAL THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER, the Secretary and Acting-Governor of Montana Territory, United States, well known in connection with political disturbances in Ireland in 1848, was drowned near Fort Benton, on the eve of July 1, through falling from the deck of a steam-boat.

AN OLD GENTLEMAN recently attempted to remove a large bug from the bonnet of a lady who sat in front of him at the theatre. The result was that he unrooted all her back hair. Deeply chagrined, he hastily apologised, but soon learned that the bug was artificial, and was used to hold the head and hair together.

GENERAL GARIBOLDI arrived at Pistoia on the morning of the 15th. A large concourse of persons of all classes of society were waiting for him at the station, and two bands of music accompanied him to his hotel. In the evening the General made a speech from a balcony, and inveighed against the priests, saying, among other things, "Mark well my words—without Rome there is no Italy."

A MAN was brought up at the Sheffield Police Court on Monday charged with throwing stones at a lamp-lighter. When asked what he meant by such a freak, he said he was a friend of the lamp-lighter. In order to let the prosecutor know that he was near him, and to assure him of his friendship, he had thrown half a brick at his head. He was fined 7s. 6d.

A MAN has been apprehended at Hathersage, in Derbyshire, on a charge of having shot a workman employed at a needle factory there. The prisoner fired twice with a revolver and caused four wounds, which, however, are not thought at present to be of a serious nature. The case is described as a trade union outrage.

CAPTAIN SPENCER, holding a commission in the British Army, has been shot whilst travelling in America for health and pleasure. He went up the Missouri as far as Fort Bredford, and left the steamer to examine the fort, when he was shot by a sentinel, who says that he challenged Captain Spencer three times without receiving any reply.

THE ELECTION FOR BIRMINGHAM has terminated in the return of the Liberal candidate, the numbers being, Dixon, 5819; Lloyd, 4214; majority, 1605. At Coventry, Mr. Ferrand, the Conservative candidate, polled 2123; and Mr. Jackson, the Liberal, 2429; majority for the latter, 306. Sir John Karslake and Mr. Selwyn, the new Attorney and Solicitor Generals, have been re-elected for Andover and Cambridge University, respectively, without opposition.

MR. J. J. HOMER, a licensed victualler, carrying on business in Mare-street, and who has been for many years past an active member of the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum and Schools, has offered himself as a candidate for the representation of the borough of Hackney, proposed to be constituted under the Government Reform Bill.

SERGEANT LANE, of the 1st Gloucester Rifles, the winner of the Queen's prize at Wimbledon, has met with a great reception on returning home to Bristol. He tried to evade the crowds of friends awaiting him, but was captured, brought back on his comrades' shoulders, hoisted into a carriage with his Colonel, and conducted through the city in triumph.

A MAN NAMED JONES, who was suffering from illness, applied the other day for admission to the Dublin workhouse. When his clothes were about being exchanged he expressed his unwillingness to part with his trousers. On examination, it was found that he had in his trousers pocket £137 in money and bank deposits, and it was subsequently learnt that he had lent money to the extent of £230. He was sent to the pay-ward in the hospital.

A MEETING was held, on Monday, at the London Tavern, to protest against Ritualism, and to support the bill of Lord Shaftesbury on the subject. The Lord Mayor was to have presided, but he was not present, and Alderman Hale took the chair in his stead. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were agreed to.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

If there be any stingy people in the City grumbling over the expense of that reception and feast given at the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor to the Sultan, this fact, perhaps, when known, may suppress these grumblings. The Lord Mayor, rumour says, had no intention to entertain his Majesty in this splendid way; but he received a hint from the Government—given through the Home Secretary—that something of the sort would be very suitable, acceptable to the Government, and pleasing, it may be, to her Majesty, and hence this Royal entertainment. The hint could not, in common courtesy, be neglected; and, if the entertainment were to be given, of course it must be got up in a right Royal manner, regardless of cost. In short, it must be an entertainment becoming so great, so wealthy, so powerful a city, &c., to give, and one suitable for so great a Potentate to receive; and no doubt it was all this. And it was worth doing, if only for this reason: all the principal capitals of Europe have heard of the Lord Mayor of London; but it is questionable whether his name was ever heard in Stamboul. But now both his name and fame will not only be known in Constantinople, but far away in Asia, and spoken of with awe, perhaps, amongst the worshippers of the sun.

But, if rumour speaks truly, some few years hence, if another Sultan should come to our shores, he will find a Lord Mayor of London far more potent than we have at present; for rumour says that Mr. Mill's scheme of Metropolitan Reform is next year to be taken up by the Government, and that the Lord Mayor and Corporation have consented to the main features of the scheme. Now, this scheme, as I understand it, is to divide the whole metropolis into a number of municipalities, each to be governed by its Aldermen and Corporation, and each to elect a member of a federal body; and that the head of this federation is to be the Lord Mayor. What this federation is to do, I cannot tell you in detail; but I understand that it is, amongst other duties, to take all those which now devolve upon the Metropolitan Board of Works. A grand scheme this, if it can but be carried out. It is the grandeur of it that has, I suspect, fascinated Disraeli. At all events, he means to take it up next Session, make it a Government scheme, and, if possible, carry it through. And if he should achieve this reform as well as the reform of Parliament, her Majesty ought, at least, to give him a new coat of arms, with Gog and Magog as supporters. But really, joking apart, I have heard, and heard on good authority, that this is to be the great Government measure of the next Session, and that the Corporation of London are ready heartily to co-operate, and even to make great sacrifices, that this reform may be accomplished. Of course, there will be still a London Corporation; but it will be only like unto the other metropolitan municipal corporations. All the vast property of the present Corporation, it is said, will be transferred to the federation. The "Lord Mayor of London" will in such case be indeed a great personage; for I suppose the chief of the federation will be styled "the Lord Mayor." When this plan was first suggested, it was feared by some timid Whigs and antiquated Tories that this federation might become too powerful; but Disraeli would laugh at all such fears. Of course, we shall have a new Mansion House, or Hall of Federation, analogous to the Hotel de Ville at Paris, and a banquet chamber therein large enough to entertain all the mayors, and aldermen, and councillors of the metropolitan municipalities; and what a blaze of magnificence shall we be able to show the next Sultan who shall honour us with a visit!

We do not burn gas at my club, you know, Mr. Editor: we voted it out a long time ago, because it made us bald, inflamed the mucous membranes of our eyes and noses, heated our brains, and rotted the books and furniture. Other clubs have done the same; but still gas is so extensively used, that those who stick to candles in their houses, as I do, are thought almost fatuous. What will be the turn that the gas agitation will take between this and next Session? The Committee, under the presidency of Mr. Cardwell, collapsed suddenly on Tuesday, the three bills coming to nothing, so that there will be no legislation this Session. The thirteen companies seemed at first disposed to come into the Government measure, on the understanding that for a year things were to go on at four shillings per thousand feet, with fourteen-candle gas (the existing standard is twelve), and then that from January, 1869, London was to have sixteen-candle gas, at three and ninepence. This the Committee accepted as a beginning, in spite of the protests of the Corporation and the Board of Works, who said they would rather have no legislation at all than accept these terms. But, when an attempt was made to settle the clauses of the bill, it was seen that it was no part of the intention of the Committee or of the Board of Trade (who were the promoters of the bill) to frame the clauses, so that there should be maintained a price and an illuminating power so adjusted that the present maximum dividend of ten per cent should be aimed at; the promoters and the Committee preferring the words "at least approaching," or "attaining as near as may be," the ten per cent. When, in addition to this, it was found that the Committee intended to refuse the power of making up previous back dividends, the companies withdrew entirely from the bargain. You see, Parliament has no right to interfere compulsorily with the price of gas, any more than with the price of bread; but it could do one of two things—it could sanction a competing supply, or it could say to a company that came before it, "We shall not give you legislative powers for raising capital, or taking up the streets, or buying land, unless you come into certain terms as to price and lighting-standard." In this case, there being no competing scheme before the Committee, they can only report to the House, as they have said they will now do, that it is expedient that the supply of gas for the metropolis should be under the control of the local authorities. The two minor or private bills for enabling the Imperial and the Chartered Companies to raise capital and take land the Committee threw out, because those companies would not accept the terms which were proposed to the thirteen companies who opposed the Government bill, and so matters rest till next Session, as far as legislation is concerned; but gas agitation will not rest, and gas shares, already much shaken, will be shaken yet more.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE PRINCESS'S has been opened for a short season under the promising management of Mr. Hermann Vezin, one of the most conscientious and intelligent actors of the gentlemanly school on the stage. Mr. W. G. Wills, the author of the new drama, "The Man o' Airie," produced by Mr. Vezin, on Saturday last, has fallen into an error to which novelists who take, exceptionally, to stage writing are very liable. He is much too prolix, he is too wordy, he has too much description, too much explanation. Description and explanation may, in a novel, be made quite as interesting as incident or dialogue; but in a play they retard the development of the plot, and, however brilliantly they may be written, must inevitably act as a dead-weight upon the progress of the piece. A novel-reader can skip portions which bore him, or he can lay his book down when he is tired of it, and take it up again at his leisure; but a playgoer has neither of these resources, nor any resources analogous to them. The playgoer must hear all that the author has to say, from beginning to end; he is to a great extent at the author's mercy, a consideration to which he is keenly alive, and under which he chafes uneasily during the run of a long piece. But the "Man o' Airie" is the work of a clever man, nevertheless. There is more "thinking" in it than in any other drama of the day that I can call to mind. The dialogue is terse and epigrammatic; and, although the construction is slovenly in parts, the situations flow naturally and easily from each other. The leading idea in the last act (for which Mr. Wills manfully acknowledges his debt to the German of Carl von Holtei) is extremely poetical, and it is brought into its place with considerable skill under circumstances of no little difficulty. The piece is uniformly well acted. John Harebell, a sort of unrecognised Burns, who eventually goes mad, owing to the pressure of many misfortunes, is admirably rendered by the accomplished manager. There is a quiet dignity, a rustic grace, an air of artless grandeur about his impersonation of the character,

which is eminently in keeping with the semi-ideal personage he represents. His madness is affecting, and in no way overstrained. Mr. Forrester played a peculiarly unpleasant and difficult part with skill and good taste; and Mr. Price and Mr. Gresham, as Sir Gerald Hope and Lord Steelman, were fairly fitted. Mr. M'Lean had a tiresome rôle as a wearying, chattering, Scotch servant. He played it extremely well, and his Scotch was capital; but the length of the part is ludicrously out of proportion to its importance to the play. Miss Nelly Moore had a very bad part as Miss Steelman, but she did her best with it. Miss Stuart was graceful as Harebell's wife. The scenery is excellent, and the piece was in every way successful. Still, it was much too long, and might with advantage be shortened by three quarters of an hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Billington take a benefit at the ADELPHI on Monday evening, on which occasion, as the public will be pleased to learn, Mrs. Alfred Mellon has consented to make her reappearance on the stage; for that night only, however. Mr. J. L. Toole will also reappear for that night only.

M. Gompertz has commenced, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, a series of entertainments with his Spectroscope, which are of a very amusing and interesting character.

PARIS GOSSIP.

THERE is a very general feeling—which, to use the "liners" style, has not yet "transpired" in the papers—that war is only a question of a very short time. This—shall I call it apprehension, or hope?—is freely communicated in private, and odds are laid that one Potentate or other will "Cry havoc! and let slip the dogs of war" before six months shall have elapsed. I cannot ascertain what grounds exist for this opinion. The soldiery are assiduously drilled and exercised, it is true; but without this an army would soon become rusty. Then, secret preparations are talked of; but, if they exist, they must be very secret indeed. Most probably, if it arises from the undoubtedly dissatisfied feeling left by the Luxemburg Treaty; because, you perceive, although Prussia loses that fortress, France does not get it. Another class of cynical reasoners argue that war is never so near at hand as when Napoleon III. makes ostentatious professions of peaceful purposes and desires. These people make an epigram of it, as Swift did with respect to the lawyers; but the French ruler, like other statesmen, neither thinks epigram nor acts it.

However, this is heavy politics, although gossip. I must speak of lighter matters. Have you not abolished pluralities in your old feudal country? Well, see how they may flourish here. Marshal Vaillant—who, to be sure, is a fine old soldier, and has seen service—is, as you may be aware, Minister of Fine Arts and of the Household; he receives 100,000fr. in that capacity; as Marshal, 49,000fr.; as senator, 30,000fr.; as Grand Officer of the Crown, 48,000fr.; and as Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, 3000fr. the Legion of Honour, you perceive, involves some of this latter commodity in honest Jack Falstaff's sense of the word. But the Marshal has, besides, "the run of the kitchen" and more. He is lodged, warmed, and washed for as Minister; fed as Grand Officer of the Crown; his carriage is maintained by the Civil List; in short, with the exception of his clothes and his tobacco, Marshal Vaillant's living includes "everything found."

The unfortunate Maximilian was an author, as well as a soldier and a gentleman—a fact that was not generally known. A strong feeling of curiosity of the most legitimate kind has been generally aroused by the announcement of the forthcoming publication of his works. They are written in the German language, and are already partly printed, at Leipzig, in four volumes. These are "Passages from the History of my Life" ("Aus Meinen Leben"), "Sketches of Travel" ("Reiseskizzen"), "Aphorisms" ("Aphorismen"), and Poetry ("Gedichte"). Whatever may be the literary or intrinsic merit of these productions, the heroic character and sad fate of their author will, of course, ensure to them, throughout Europe at least, a *succès d'estime*.

Ristori, who has now left for Italy, recently passed a great many hours, day after day, in the mean and gloomy apartments of the Conciergerie, in which Marie Antoinette was imprisoned. The great tragedienne was apparently imbuing inspiration—no, not imbibing; inhaling—inhalation! Well, at any rate, seeking inspiration from the *genius loci*, with the intention of creating a character—that is the phrase—of the unhappy Queen of France for the stage; just as she created one of Mary Stuart, and thereby made a fortune among the Yankees, who, if they have plenty of money, must be admitted to possess also some glimmerings of taste.

Everybody, of course, has heard of the Egyptian wheat kindly preserved by a mummy for 3000 years, and doubtless many of us have eaten of the produce. Here is a companion story, and, although later born, seemingly a good deal bigger. Some fowls were eaten here, the other day—I may as well mention that it was in the Rue St. Antoine, under the auspices of a good Curé—which were hatched from eggs that belonged to the bon Roi Dagobert, famous for his breeches, or the want of them, I forget which. The Curé avers that the eggs were dug up from the spot where that respected Monarch's *basse-cour* stood, while digging for the foundation of a church just erected on the spot. The story of the mummified wheat at once struck him; he put the eggs under a good hatcher, and the result was degenerated in the Rue St. Antoine, as aforesaid. Now, don't you, with your usual incredulous *malice*, pretend that these fowls were *canards*; but you are welcome to take note of the fact that I have not said they were not.

Paris seems to be fast emptying of foreigners, and the great hotels are discharging their extra servants by scores.

THE SULTAN, during his stay in London, paid a visit to Lady Palmerston, the only private person whom he so honoured. His Majesty said to her Ladyship that Lord Palmerston was the Englishman he had most desired to see, and that, as he had been removed by inexorable fate, it was his (the Sultan's) wish to pay homage to his name by visiting her Ladyship.

MR. TITUS SALT, formerly M.P. for Bradford, and the proprietor of the well-known alpaca manufactory at Saltaire, has just made a very magnificent offer to the borough of Hull. He proposes to give £5000 to the Sailors' Orphan Institution connected with the Port of Hull Society, on condition that the institution be enlarged to give accommodation for 100 orphans, and the school to 200.

INCREASED ARMY PAY.—There has just been published a revised supplementary estimate to cover the charges for granting an increase of pay to the non-commissioned officers and men of the army, militia, and army reserve force, and for the more efficient recruiting of the army. It gives the amount at £560,000. The addition of 2d. a day to the pay of all non-commissioned officers and men of the army is £376,000, and the addition of 1d. a day to the pay of all re-engaged men, at £23,000. The increase of rewards to enlistees is estimated at £7000, and the additional bounty to men re-engaging or proceeding abroad, £10,000. The additions to the pay of the militia amount in all to £63,250, and the army reserve force to £20,000.

FRANCE, PRUSSIA, AND SCHLESWIG.—The diplomatic "Story without an end," the Schleswig-Holstein question, has entered upon another chapter. Since the termination of the Luxemburg difficulty, the Government of France has urged on that of Prussia, in courteous but decided terms, the expediency of coming to some settlement with Denmark. By a clause inserted in the Treaty of Prague, at the instance of France, it was agreed that certain cessions of territory, the extent of which was not specified, should be made in Northern Schleswig, with the view of restoring the purely Danish portions of the duchy to the rule of Copenhagen. Hitherto no serious effort has been made to carry this stipulation into effect; and so long as Denmark was left to herself it seemed impossible that so adroit a statesman as Count Bismarck would not find some plea for indefinitely putting off the fulfilment of an unwelcome contract. Of late, however, the French Foreign Office has taken up the cause of the Danes, and frequent communications on the subject of the proposed cessions have passed between Paris and Berlin. Hitherto the representations made on the one side and the explanations on the other have been couched in the most friendly language. But the question at issue is exactly one of those which, even without any intention, may readily create a serious dispute; and we cannot be surprised if the intelligence that France has undertaken the championship of the Scandinavian cause in Schleswig should have created general uneasiness throughout Germany. The recognised organ of Herr von Bismarck in Berlin has deemed it necessary to confute the rumours that "clouds are rising on the political horizon," and that "the variance between France and Germany will lead to war." We believe these pacific assurances are well founded; but it is curious they should have to be made in such a quarter.—*Telegraph*.

THE LATE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.

THE mournful story so anxiously awaited of the manner of the Mexican Emperor's dying is at last given to the world. History presents no more impressive instance of firmness in the last supreme moment. It was not the firmness of despair nor the firmness of the stoic. Maximilian walked to his death, in that sweet June morning, as calmly, as courteously, as gently, as though to an interview with some familiar friend. He was taken, with his Lieutenants, to the Plaza in a carriage. Alighting at a short distance from the place of execution, the Emperor marched with elastic and graceful step to the ground appointed. His hands were not confined, nor was he blindfolded. He turned to the sobbing crowd—for his gallant bearing had impressed even the savages about him, as well as the few friends who were permitted to witness his death—and in a clear, graceful style detailed the history of the Imperialist movement, of the causes that led to his acceptance of the crown, of the repeated appeals made to him, by delegations of Mexicans and others, to assume the Imperial authority. When, at last, the European Powers advised him to yield, he did so, but only upon assurance that he should be welcomed by the voice of the Mexican people. He declared that the court-martial which had convicted him had usurped authority. Then he called to the sergeant in command and gave to him a handful of twenty-dollar pieces, asking that they be distributed among the men who were to shoot him, as an inducement to aim at his heart. The signal was given, the volley was fired, the Emperor fell. Five balls had pierced his breast; but he still breathed—there was still some muscular movement. Two of the assassins advanced, and, placing the muzzles of their rifles against the Emperor's side, discharged the final shots. Maximilian at once expired. The last words on his lips were, "Poor Carlotta! Miramon read from a paper a short speech. His dying cry was, "Viva l'Empereur! Viva la Mexico!" Mejia uttered a few words, from which it appeared that the Emperor had not forgotten to provide for the family of a faithful supporter. The three victims were simultaneously dispatched.

Accounts of the previous treatment of the Emperor are interesting, as, indeed, everything relating to that *preux chevalier* must be. On May 27 Maximilian applied to Juarez for permission to send through the lines investing the capital a telegram calling Baron de Magnus (the Prussian Minister) and two lawyers to his defence; on the same day he requested a personal interview with Juarez. To the first of these appeals the Mexican President returned an affirmative answer; the request for an interview was denied. (It should be added that Maximilian asked for the assistance of the representatives of Austria and Belgium, or, in default of them, those of England and Italy, "for the purpose of arranging family and international affairs which should have been arranged two months before.") In refusing an interview, Juarez said that he could not grant it "because of the distance which separated Maximilian and the ends of justice"—whatever he may have meant by that expression. Previously (on May 25) Maximilian had asked for an extension of time, in the event of a failure of counsel to arrive, to prepare his defence. In reply, Juarez said that if counsel did not arrive at the time specified the trial should proceed. Juarez had previously ordered that no trial should consume more than one day. It is certain that the Mexican President agreed to postpone the trial of the Emperor until after the capitulation of Mexico. It is equally certain that, after inducing Maximilian to believe that no immediate trial would be held, Juarez changed his mind and ordered the inquisition to proceed. In twenty-four hours from the time of the assembling of the court-martial the Emperor was "convicted."

Despatches from New Orleans contain further intelligence regarding the trial of Maximilian. The Emperor was confined to his bed when the case was called, his being the last. He was ably defended by Señor Eulalio Ortega, who refuted the charges of usurpation and cruelty. He said that the law of Oct. 3 was made when Maximilian was cheated into the belief that Juarez had abandoned the territory, and that one of the articles of that law was dictated by the French commander-in-chief. He said, moreover, that that law was only intended as a terror; and, as there never had been a petition for pardon presented but it was conceded, he earnestly asked the members of the Court, in the name of civilisation and history, which would judge of the terrible deed done that day, and as the defenders of the second independence of Mexico, to save the good name of the country in the eyes of coming generations, who would ever applaud, as the crowning of the greatest victories, the greatest forgiveness. Among the accusations against Maximilian was one of attempting to prolong the war by the decree of March 7, and creating a Regency in case of his death in the coming battles. Jesús María Vasquez, one of Maximilian's counsel, closed the argument as follows:—"If you condemn the Archduke to death I am not uneasy about a coalition in Europe, or the threatening attitude that the United States may assume towards the Republic. I have confidence in the Liberals, who have rooted out the French from this soil; but I fear the universal reproach that will fall upon our country as an anathema—worse than even a sentence of death—because of the nullity of the proceedings of this court."

The special correspondent of an American paper has furnished the following particulars of the arrival of Princess Salm-Salm in the apartment where the Emperor and her husband were confined shortly before the execution of Maximilian, when the heroic lady returned from her mission of seeking mercy from Juarez. The description purports to be derived from an eye-witness:—"She ought to come," said Prince Salm-Salm, anxiously. "She will do what she can." The speaker quitted his seat and slowly walked the floor. His eyeglass dropped unnoticed from its perch. His fingers writhed nervously behind his back. He tried to hum a tune, but failed. Maximilian sank into the vacant chair. For a few moments he was silent. Then he lifted his eyes with a pleasant smile and spoke, "You are an American or a Mexican—which?" "Both. I was born in Guadalajara and have lived in the United States." Still smiling, the Archduke continued:—"The Americans, I suppose, would not regret to hear of my death?" "I think they would; they are not such a people—I hope they will not have to hear of it." "We shall see." The Archduke's face became sobered, and he spoke abstractedly. "I did what seemed for the best. They deceived me. I am afraid they will all regret." Here he leaned his head upon his hand and seemed to be waiting and listening. The visitor sat uneasily regarding the two prisoners—one motionless, the other pacing to and fro. The barking of a dog in the sultry street, the sounds of a carousal in an opposite building, the soldiers' voices in the saven, were all cruelly distinct. A few minutes were thus spent. Then a bustle was heard outside; the heavy door was opened, and a soldier announced "La Señora!" In an instant Prince Salm-Salm had the new comer in his arms. She was the voluntary messenger, his wife. She had just arrived from San Luis Potosí, from Juarez. Her face was sunburnt and soiled; her shoes were torn; her whole form trembled with nerveless fatigue as she laid her hands on her husband's shoulders. The Archduke came forward eagerly, waiting for his turn. The Prince was heard to ask in a whisper, "Have you had any success? What did Juarez say?" "They will do what they have said in the despatches. They have granted the delay." She turned to Maximilian, "Oh, your Majesty, I am so glad!" Maximilian took the Princess's hand and kissed it. "May God bless you, Madame!" he said; "you have been too kind to one who is afraid he can never serve you." The Princess forced a smile. "Do not be too sure of that, your Majesty. I shall have some favour to ask for the Prince, here, yet." "You will never need to ask that, Madame," replied the Archduke, leading the lady to a seat. "But you look weary. You are very tired. We can offer you little. Prince, you must come for your—I—" Turning his face aside, Maximilian moved abruptly towards the window. It was easy to see why. His grief was restrained, but almost audible. The Prince, with one hand on the back of his wife's chair, and with the other uplifted towards the Archduke in mute protestation, could hardly restrain his own. It was time intrusion should cease. The visitor, who had already gained the door, made an unnoticed salute, and withdrew.

Literature.

Life and Writings of Joseph Mazzini. Vol. IV. Critical and Literary. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

We have already, in noticing previous volumes of this handsome edition of the writings of Mazzini, had an opportunity of expressing the estimate we have formed of the writer's character and tone of thought, and need not retrace the same ground now. To general readers the present volume and its immediate predecessor will perhaps be the most attractive of the series. In these volumes there is less of the author's peculiar views on politics, and of the politics of Italy in particular, and consequently less debatable ground is taken up. But it must not be supposed that if politics are less prominent, political philosophy is altogether absent; for the one pervading idea of M. Mazzini's mind is the political regeneration of mankind, and all other topics—critical, literary, philosophical, social—are viewed in their bearings upon that idea. Hence it is that in the opening article in this volume—"The Philosophy of Music"—some of the finest passages owe their inspiration to the thought that the musical drama might and ought to have an important influence in promoting the grand object of Mazzini's life—human progress and the perfecting of human government. In this, as on most other topics, he is apt to be somewhat over-exacting—perhaps impracticable. He ever disregards the Actual in his pursuit of the Ideal. He excoiates from the depth of his own imaginative soul some abstract idea of excellence, sets it up as a sort of deity, and pays it even more than Divine honours. In other words, he lives in and worships his own thoughts, to the almost total exclusion of the real men and circumstances that make life in the world. If M. Mazzini's notion of what the musical drama ought to be could be realised, it would indeed be a great thing; but the question forces itself upon us, Why has this ideal excellence never been hitherto attained? and we fear the only answer is that men have not hitherto been capable of appreciating that excellence. Indeed, had the high mission of music, contended for by M. Mazzini, been appreciated by "collective humanity"—to use one of our author's favourite phrases—and had the excellence he aims at been attained, there would have been no field for M. Mazzini's exertions either in the world of action or in the realm of teaching. Men, society, would have been so good, so virtuous, and consequently so happy, that they would have been in need neither of improvement nor improvers. Still, in this paper on music there are some excellent and not altogether impracticable suggestions, one of the best of which is embodied in the following passage:—

Every man, but more especially one worthy to be selected for representation in a drama, has a certain character, style, and bearing belonging to him alone; such a man was in fact a purpose or an idea, of which his whole life was the pursuit or development. Why not endeavour to render that idea in a form of musical expression, special and peculiar to him? Why give a certain character and style of speech to a man, and not a certain character and style of song? Why not study more carefully how to avail yourselves of the power of instrumentation to symbolise, through the medium of the accompaniment that surrounds each of the personages, that tumult of affections, habits, instincts, and moral or material tendencies most commonly influencing their minds, and playing so large a part in the formation of their destiny; or those final deliberations or resolves which bring about the special fact to be represented? Why not vary the nature and character of the melodies and accompaniments according to the nature and character of the personages on the stage? Why not, through the well-timed repetition of a special musical phrase, or of certain fundamental and striking chords, suggest the disposition of each, or the influence of the circumstances or natural tendencies that urge him along?

Another paper in this volume, which will be read with peculiar interest, is the one on the "Genius and Tendency of the Writings of Thomas Carlyle." After a hearty and genial acknowledgment of the value of Carlyle's writings and of the influence they are exercising on the minds of thinkers, and indeed on those of men of all sorts, M. Mazzini proceeds to take exception to what he calls the too great materialism and individualism of the Chelsea sage, as embodied especially in his declaration that the history of the world is fundamentally nothing more than the biography of great men. M. Mazzini says:—

There is but one defect in Mr. Carlyle in my opinion, but that one is vital: it influences all he does, it determines all his views; for logic and system rule the intellect even when the latter pretends to rise the most against them. I refer to his view of the collective intelligence of our times.

That which rules the period which is now commencing, in all its manifestations; that which makes every one at the present day complain, and seek good as well as bad remedies—that which everywhere tends to substitute, in politics, democracy for governments founded upon privilege—in social economy, association for unlimited competition—in religion, the spirit of universal tradition for the solitary inspiration of the conscience—is the work of an idea which not only alters the aim but changes the starting-point of human activity; it is the collective thought seeking to supplant the individual thought in the social organism; the spirit of *Humanity* substituting itself (for it has been always silently and unperceived at work) for the spirit of *man*.

From the point of view of the individual we have gained the idea of right; we have worked out (were it only in thought) liberty and equality—the two great guarantees of all personality: we proceed further—we stagger out the words Duty—that is to say, something which can only be derived from the general law—and *association*—that is to say, something which requires a common object, a common belief. The prolonged plaint of millions crushed beneath the wheels of competition has warned us that freedom of labour does not suffice to render industry what it ought to be, the source of material life to the state in all its members: the intellectual anarchy to which we are a prey has shown us that liberty of conscience does not suffice to render religion the source of moral life to the state in all its members.

In the last sentence ideas are wrapped up which we fear men in these days will be slow to acknowledge, and which we do not think it would be well that they should acknowledge. If freedom of labour does not afford a sure foundation for human prosperity, we fear a better foundation never will be discovered; and if "liberty of conscience does not suffice to render religion the source of moral life to the state in all its members," we suspect that nothing will suffice for that purpose. In fact, individuality must be the source of everything in a community. Individual liberty must be the foundation of general liberty; individual thought the beginning of collective thought; individual religion the nucleus of national—or universal—religion; just as the individual is the germ of the state. Once abandon liberty of conscience for the individual and set up the collective convictions of humanity in its stead, and you open the door for the admission of that priestly domination against which Luther, in which army of rebels no one is more prominent than M. Mazzini. A religion founded on the "universal traditions" of men would need interpreters; the interpreters would become a separate caste; they would assume authority, and that authority would eventually degenerate into tyranny. Such has been the course of events in the past, and the same thing would undoubtedly occur in the future. M. Mazzini insists that virtue, and not happiness, ought to be the aim of mankind. And in the abstract, of course, this is true. There can be no real happiness apart from virtue. The one, to be genuine, must be founded on the other. But we cannot see, as M. Mazzini seems to imply, that there is any antagonism between the two. Men generally—and we must accept human nature as it is, not as we fancy it ought to be—are not transcendentalists: they do not exist upon mere sentiments, however holy and beautiful these may be; they must have something real, tangible, substantial to live upon and strive after; and that substantiality is happiness, of which physical well-being forms an important element. Hence it is essential that men should be in the enjoyment of a reasonable measure of personal comfort in order that they may be able to live virtuous lives—be removed from temptations to vice. Excessive wealth may generate luxury and vice; but excessive poverty does not necessarily foster virtue. Indeed, whatever may have been the case in primitive ages, or whatever pictures may have been painted by poets and dreamy philosophers, among men and women in these degenerate, unpoetic, perhaps unphilosophic days, poverty and virtue are not synonymous terms. In married life a proverb tells that "When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out by the window;" and we fear virtue would be apt to accompany love in its flight. True, men may have mistaken notions as to what constitutes happiness; but so may they

also about virtue and religion; and the ideas on these points of "collective humanity" are no more to be relied on than those of individuals. Perhaps a sounder form in which to put the axiom than that adopted by M. Mazzini would be to say, that happiness is the natural pursuit of man, and that the practice of virtue is the only certain means of securing happiness. On the whole, we prefer the individuality of Mr. Carlyle, with all its shortcomings, to the collectivity of M. Mazzini, with all its theoretical excellences.

Of the other papers in this volume we have not left ourselves room to speak. But they all deserve a careful perusal—"The Duties of Man" particularly; for, whether we are satisfied with his reasoning or not, we cannot help being moved to thought by M. Mazzini's writings, and we cannot rise from their perusal without having had our stock of ideas largely augmented.

Out of the Heart—Spoken to the Little Ones. By HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. Translated by L. W. Duicken, Ph. D. With 70 Engravings by Dalziel. London: George Routledge and Sons.

Hans Christian Andersen, as a writer for the young, is as much past reviewing as Homer. It is only necessary to say that this is a very charming edition of some of his best tales, including the immortal "Ugly Duckling." If in the obscure dells, courts, alleys, or mountain fastnesses of the realm, there exists a human being who has not yet read the "Ugly Duckling," let him get the book and read it. The illustrations are, many of them, coloured, and most excellently coloured too. It is not everyone who knows the heart of a child in the matter of colour. In the desire to be bold and strong, many colourists for the young paint as if they were daubing in valentines at twopence a dozen; but in these pictures better judgment is shown. We cordially commend the little volume to our readers.

Holiday Excursions of a Naturalist: Forming a Guide-book to the Natural History of the Inland and Littoral. London: Robert Hardwicke.

This is a book of rambles and excursions, rather than of travels; although, indeed, the Continent is touched to some extent, and not without interest. It will be noticed at an early period that "principal cities" are only touched upon in respect to their capacity for affording rest and other refreshment, and that "remarkable occurrences" chiefly relate to such accidents as will happen to adventurers who persist in tramping over mountain and moor, and in endangering their clothing by scrambling about rocky countries. The naturalist will not be surprised nor sorry to learn that about twenty times in each page of this entertaining volume the writer says—"Here we found the so-and-so" (*Sedum dasyphyllum*, for instance); and so the ordinary reader may find it hard work to get over the ground. But it is intended for the reader who is not ordinary, and by him it will be found as interesting as all class-books are by the class for which they are intended.

Our Father's Business. By THOMAS GUTHRIE, D.D., Editor of the *Sunday Magazine*. London: Alexander Strahan.

If we are not mistaken these papers are reprinted from the magazine which Dr. Guthrie edits; but, at all events, they need no such recommendation. The high reputation of this author would be quite sufficient to carry them into many well-thinking houses, where proper piety and not cant is in request. Taking as a text, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" the Doctor gives us a series of sermons, or rather essays, on those serious matters that should be of every-day concern. "Our Model," "Our Object," are suggestive themes, and "Man's Inability" makes a comparison with "God's Ability." Eleven subjects in all are treated with Dr. Guthrie's well-known earnest manliness, and beyond all doubt they are calculated to do good service—taken in proper proportion and at proper times—to the large and amiable band of something like unthinking brothers and sisters, who deem it "all right" when Sunday's church-going is over and another week's accumulation of "sin and wickedness" about to commence.

DOES THE VICEROY OF EGYPT SPEAK ANY EUROPEAN LANGUAGE?

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.)

SIR,—It is a great mistake to suppose that his Highness Ismail Pacha does not understand any other language than Arabic and Persian, because he has spoken in his mother tongue at the Mansion House and elsewhere.

Among all the illustrious pupils whom I have had the honour of teaching, not one has been more gifted by Nature with talents beyond the common, and none of them had a more marked aptitude for languages, than Prince Ismail Bey. And, as the Prince's first European tutor, I beg leave to assure you that more than twenty years ago, during the lifetime of his father, Ibrahim Pacha, such had been the assiduity of his Highness in his studies, that he was already able to express himself with ease in French, &c., and since that time he has greatly improved.

Had the Viceroy been less modest, he might have addressed his audience very satisfactorily in a European language, without the assistance of his Excellency Nubar Pacha, or any other equally able interpreter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
D. H. ALTSCHUL.

BLONDIN has been compelled to break an engagement at Asnières in consequence of an act of "rattening." On closely inspecting his rope, the other day, he discovered that it had been sawn asunder, so that one fibre only remained, which his weight would have broken. But for the timely discovery this diabolical attempt would have succeeded.

THE CUSTOMARY BANQUET TO HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS at the Mansion House has been fixed to take place on Wednesday, Aug. 7. The Earl of Derby, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the rest of the members of the Cabinet, have accepted invitations from the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress on the occasion.

A MISEN'S HOARD.—An old woman named Jane Douglas died at St. Heliers, Jersey, a month ago, leaving her landlord, Mr. Brown, to take charge of all she had, as she possessed no relatives. She resided in a mean house in Byron-road, and was presumed to be, and put on the appearance of being, very destitute. She was visited by a great many ladies, who supplied what they deemed her pressing wants. Mr. Brown did not take any trouble about the deceased's goods after she was dead until, a few days ago, a report was set afloat that she had left a good sum of money. Thereupon he made an examination of the house, but succeeded in finding only the sum of £4 10s. There were, however, five or six boxes, apparently filled with wearing apparel, and an examination proved such to be the case. On their being turned out the following, among other articles, were discovered:—Fifty-six silk and stuff dresses, thirty shawls, 108 nightgowns, 127 chemises, twenty-nine flannel petticoats, forty-eight towels, 101 pocket-handkerchiefs, eighty-four pairs of stockings, a quantity of print dresses not made up, forty-two ties and neckerchiefs, sixty nightcaps, twenty-four skirts, twenty-four aprons, and twenty-three dress jackets. Many of the articles were quite new. In addition to these were found three canisters and a small chest of tea, a key and a bag of sugar, and various other articles of food. Mr. Brown distributed the wearing apparel among some poor persons and the ragged schools of the town.

FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN SCOTLAND.—The report of the Registrar of Friendly and Co-operative Societies in Scotland, just issued, is of a very favourable character. Of the usefulness of co-operative societies the registrar has a very high opinion, and he has lately received various communications tending strongly to confirm his views on the subject. One instance, in particular, communicated by a gentleman connected with a co-operative society, is peculiarly gratifying; the writer mentions that since the formation of the society the aspect of the neighbourhood has been quite changed; that formerly the people were much given to drunkenness, but that now, there being no spirits allowed in the store, they, in place of spending their money on intoxicating liquors, are providing for their families respectably, and are able to help their sick. The registrar feels that it would be of vast importance that gentlemen of influence should take an interest in such societies. He has within the last few months received several letters from gentlemen of large landed property who are anxious to have such societies formed in their neighbourhood. In a former report, the registrar has noticed favourably the tone of morality and religion displayed by many of the societies, which is illustrated by the members being subjected to a fine if they are guilty of swearing at any of their meetings. He has also formally noticed the decorum and courtesy inculcated in the rules which must necessarily lead to the improvement of the conduct and manners of the members at all times; and, indeed, as members are expelled for bad conduct, they in such institutions must be well conducted. The registrar has also much pleasure in taking notice of the great courtesy with which, with very few exceptions, he is treated in the various communications that he has with the office-bearers of the different societies. He is also generally much struck with the great intelligence they display, and frequently the superior manner in which they express themselves in their letters.

PALACE OF THE BEY OF TUNIS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

We have already referred to the Palace of the Bey of Tunis; and our illustration this week represents that remarkable building, the original of which is situated at Bardia, in that city so dazzling and beautiful at distance, so foul and evil-smelling on a closer acquaintance. The edifice itself, however, is very handsome, and the reproduction of it in the Champ de Mars cost £60,000. The Moorish system of ornamentation is admirably wrought out in its Saracenic halls. Of the guardhouses on the right and left of the external staircase we have already spoken, as well as of the graded dens in which it has been daily expected that a couple of Barbary lions would be placed to roar, and of the café (presided over by a Tunisian belle, in native costume, minus the veil), where visitors may drink

black coffee out of egg-shell cups, while they listen to a real Oriental orchestra, consisting of a violin with one string, a tum-tum, a mandolin, and a tambourine, all of which accompany a sacred consisting of alternate grunts and howls, enough to make the hand of the Arab barber in the adjacent shop shake with emotion as he operates on his numerous customers with that queer, awkward-looking razor.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN EUROPE.

(From the "Chronicle.")

PERHAPS it is one of the most significant facts of the times that even those countries which do nothing to promote popular education think themselves at least bound to talk in favour of it. Recent publications enable us to fix pretty accurately the present state of primary or elementary education

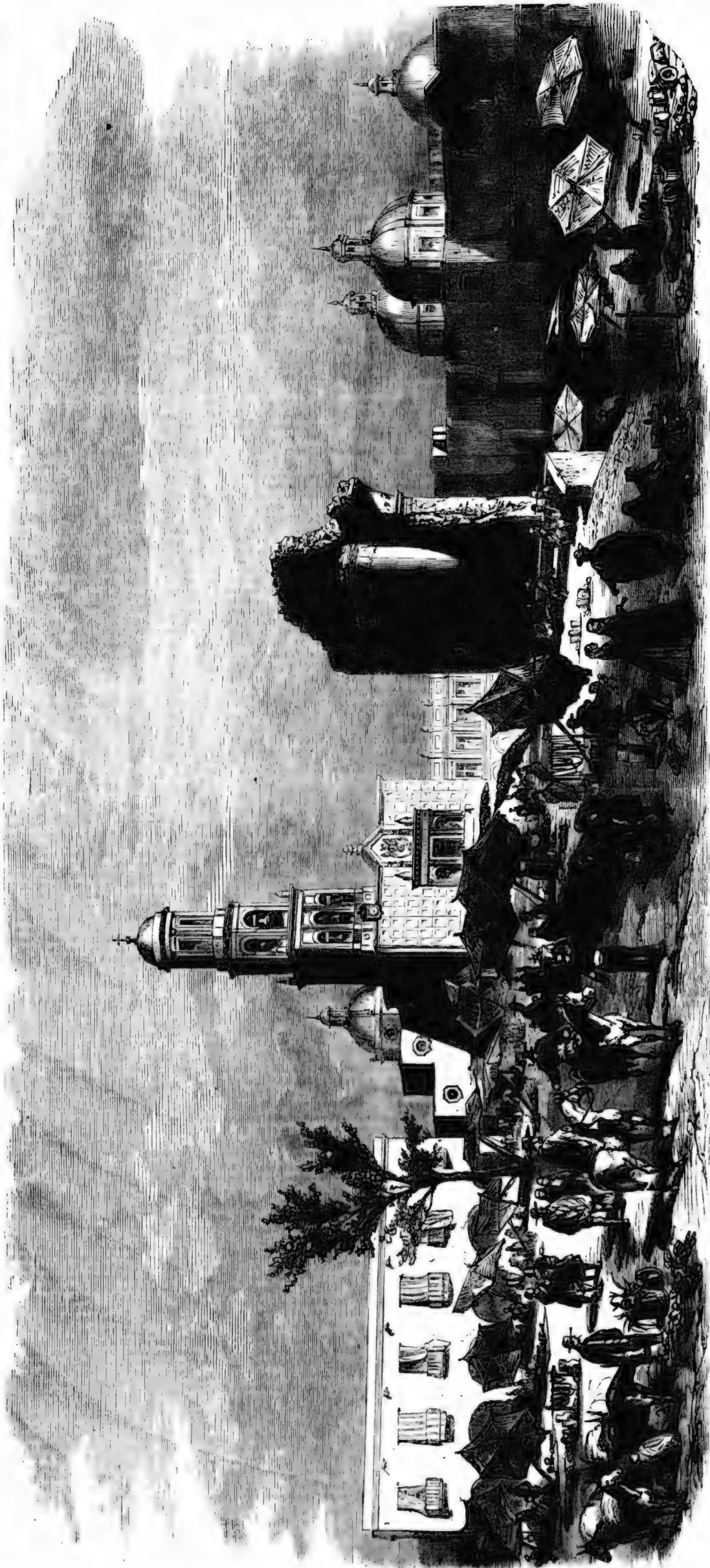
in most of the countries of Europe; and it may be useful to give a general sketch of the condition in which they stand in this respect.

Some Continental countries make primary education obligatory; while others recoil from this measure, for fear of overstepping the rights of the State. Elementary education is compulsory in all the countries of Germany, in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, in Switzerland, Italy, and Turkey. In Holland; also, but on paper only, in Spain, Portugal, and Turkey. In making education obligatory, it became necessary to place within the reach of poor children the means of receiving it, and it was on the communes that this burden was laid.

France has not gone so far. She allowed her rivals to outstrip her in the race, and the exertions of a private society were necessary to induce the Government to propose and adopt the scheme which passed into law on June 28, 1833. At that time, as again recently, the French Legislature, out

of regard for the rights of parents, refused to impose upon them the obligation of sending their children to school; nevertheless, by Art. 9 of the law 1833, and Art. 33 of the law of 1850, every commune is bound to support a public school where poor children are admitted gratis. The children of rich or well-to-do parents pay school fees, which are collected either by the communal authorities or the taxgatherer. The law has even gone further; it has fixed a minimum of salary for the school teachers, and laid various other necessary charges upon the communes.

In spite of important differences, we might perhaps put the organisation adopted in the parishes of Scotland in the same class with that of France, inasmuch as they agree in imposing the obligation not on the parents, but on the parishes. But an important distinction must be made: in Scotland the teacher's salary is raised by a tax on property, whereas in France it is produced by fees paid by the parents, and the commune has only to make



THE MARKET-PLACE, QUERETARO, MEXICO.—(SEE PAGE 56.)

of the schools of different countries, because there are distinctions everywhere between public and private schools. About public schools ample information exists, while about private schools we find little or none. Besides this, many children receive their education at home; and, with regard to them, we can calculate neither the number of scholars nor the expense.

To commence with Great Britain: the Committee of the Privy Council reports that, in 1865, 8438 schools were inspected, having accommodation for 1,677,808 scholars, and attended on an average by 1,057,745 scholars. At the time of inspection 1,246,055 scholars were present. The cost to the State was £636,806! What the parish expenses, parents' expenses, contributions of benevolent societies, &c., amounted to is not exactly known. Nor have we any precise information as to the number of children attending private schools. It is satisfactory, however, to know that the state of education among the lower classes is decidedly improving; in 1760 only

48 per cent of the population could sign their names in the registers of marriage, and in 1864 the proportion was 72 per cent. It is only within the last thirty years that any rapid improvement has taken place, for in 1840 only 58 per cent, and in 1851 62 per cent, could sign their names in the marriage registers.

In France we find an analogous improvement. Forty or fifty years ago two thirds of the population could neither read nor write, whereas at present only one third are ignorant of the alphabet. The 37,510 communes of France contain 72,069 primary schools (including 3308 infant schools), with 4,720,224 pupils, of whom 383,456 attended the infant schools. It was estimated that at that time (1864) 600,000 children were receiving no education. Upon these 72,069 schools, 58,646,924 were expended, of which about 20 millions were paid by parents, and over 25 millions by the communes, while 2,000,000 were supplied by foundations and legacies, 5,700,000 by the departments, and about 5,400,000 by the State. This

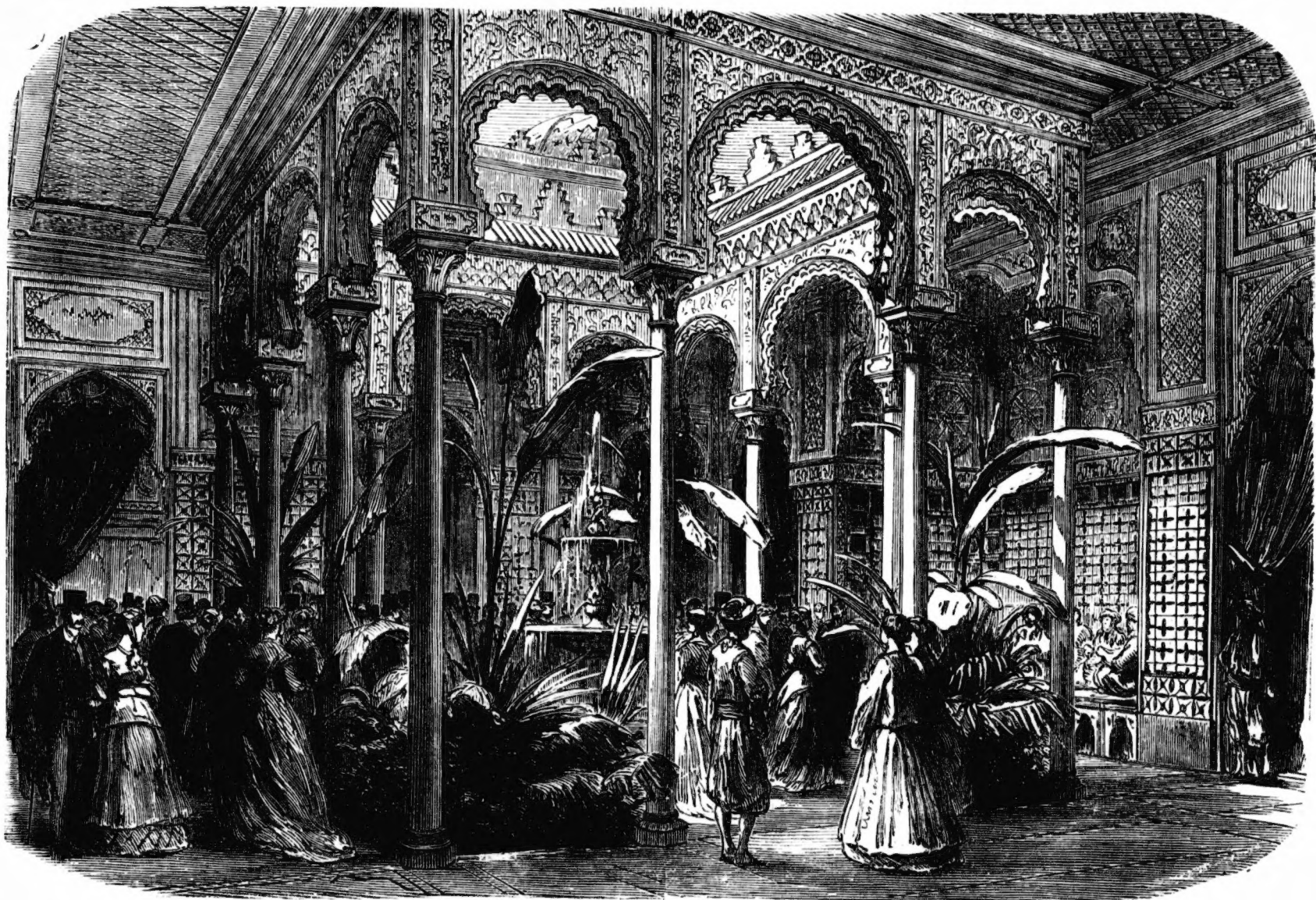
does not include 16,979,558, voted by municipal councils for the erection of schools. In the above figures are included 922,538 pupils attending 16,316 private schools, called *écoles libres*, but not the amounts paid by relations to the masters and mistresses of these schools. According to the Census of 1861 the entire population of France was 37,386,161.

The latest official information with regard to education in Prussia is for the year 1861. At that time there were in existence, for a population of 18,476,800 inhabitants, 24,763 public schools, with 3,006,273 pupils of both sexes, and in addition 1434 private schools, with 84,021 children. The cost of these amounted to 9,302,696 thalers, of which 7,449,224 thalers were paid as salaries to teachers, and the rest for various purposes, not including 4,905,163 thalers spent upon school buildings. The amount expended in salaries was provided for thus:—School fees paid by parents, 2,320,968 thalers; sum found by the communes, 4,799,958 thalers; State subsidy,

up the teacher's salary by paying for the poorer children, and to find a suitable place and school requisites. There are, however, in France more than 5000 free schools, where the parents pay nothing, and the teacher's salary is provided out of the communal funds.

For the rest, if the communes are called upon for money the different Governments have always allowed them a considerable influence over the schools. The teacher is generally appointed by the local authorities, who always exercise a surveillance over him, and who are able to enlarge the scheme of instruction. Government only reserves the right of control and inspection, and in certain cases the right of coercion. In Russia and Austria the Government supplies class books and manuals. In France it long required 10 books to be used which had not been approved. At present teachers are allowed to use any book which has not been expressly prohibited on the ground of immorality.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to give an exact and complete comparison



THE PALACE OF THE BEY OF TUNIS AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

328,298 thalers. These salaries were paid to 33,617 male and 1755 female teachers.

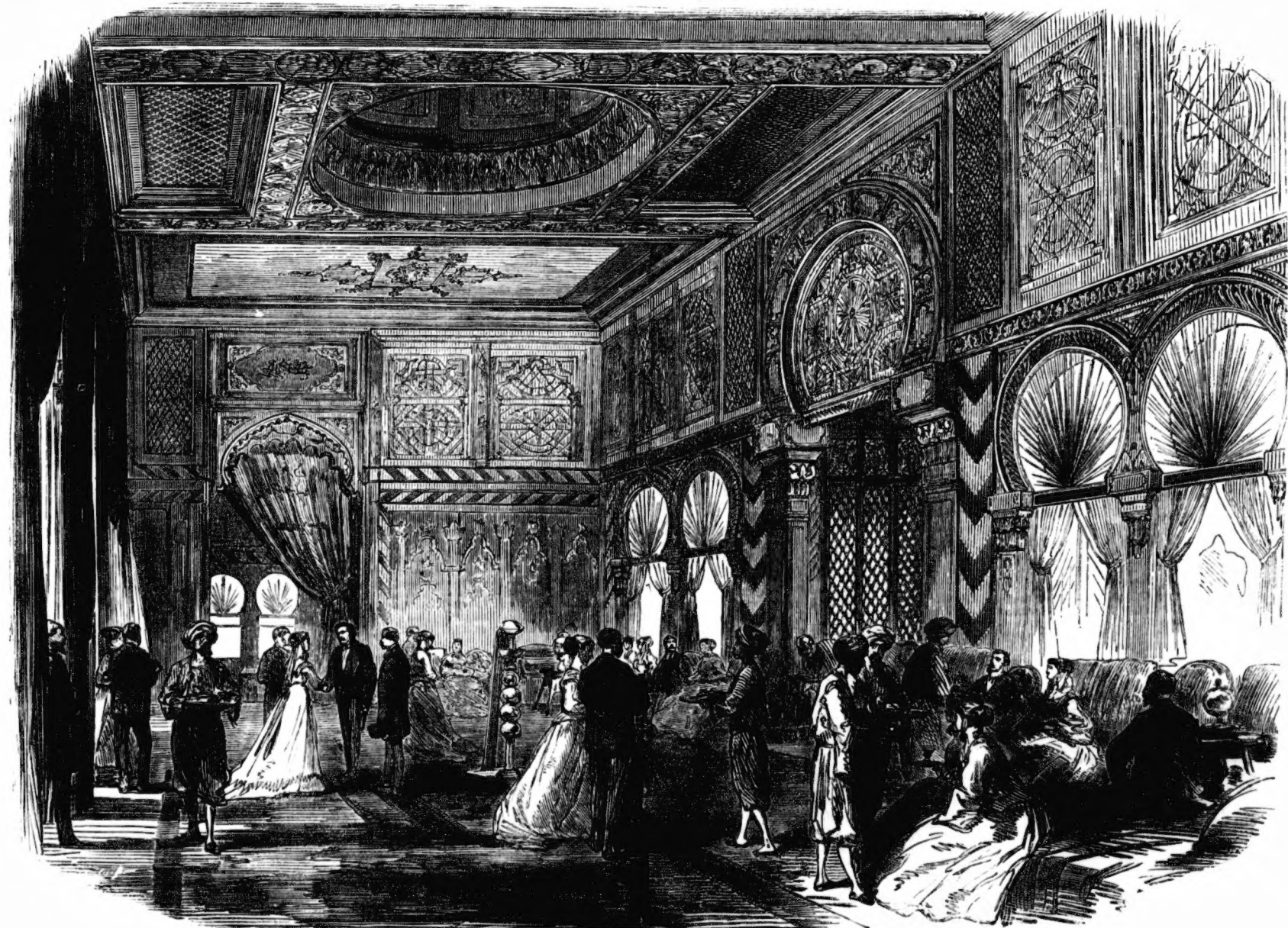
In Belgium the question of education is left perfectly open, and, consequently, out of 5664 primary schools 1658 schools, with 109,174 pupils, are under no control. The expenses of the rest, accommodating 435,587 children, amounted in 1862, the last year known, to 7,878,400*l.*, of which about one million was paid by parents, while

410,000*l.* were contributed by public and private benevolence, 3,140,000*l.* by the communes, 760,000*l.* by the provinces, and the rest by the State.

Spain, with a population of 12,873,481 inhabitants, has published most complete statistics, but they unfortunately date from the year 1860. At that time Spain had 24,353 schools, 4155 being private. The public schools were attended by 1,101,529 pupils of both sexes,

587,712 of them paying nothing. The 4155 private schools had 150,124 pupils. The ordinary expenses were 61,589,465 reals, of which 5,792,219 were contributed by parents, 54,330,614 by the communes, and 1,466,632 by charitable foundations. The extraordinary expenses exceeded 21 millions of reals.

Portugal, with 4,351,519 inhabitants, had, in 1865, 3206 primary schools, with 130,000 pupils; between 15,000 and 16,000 milrees



SALOON OF THE DIVAN IN THE PALACE OF THE BEY OF TUNIS, PARIS EXHIBITION.

(something more than £3000) is all that the State contributes towards these schools, and we are not informed of the amount of expense incurred by the communes or the parents of the children.

An excellent table of statistics informs us that Italy in 1864, with a population of 21,777,334, had 1,037,829 pupils in 24,998 public schools, and 140,914 pupils in 6805 private schools. The expense of the public schools amounted to 14,006,350 lire, of which the State found 784,487, the provinces 290,558, the communes 11,757,741, while 1,183,564 were received from different quarters. The document does not inform us of the amount contributed by the parents of the children; and its general tone seems to imply that the communes paid for them.

Austria, with a population of 35,019,098 inhabitants, including Venetia, but not including Lombardy, only tells us that she had, in 1864, 31,589 schools of different classes, among them being enumerated 3091 *Nothschulen*, or schools kept on for want of better; and that a total number of 2,513,242 pupils attended school, while the population included no less than 3,814,110 children of an age at which attendance at school is obligatory.

We borrow from the *Moscow Gazette* the following information relative to Russia and Turkey (Feb. 28, 1867):—"Of all the countries of Europe, without exception, Russia does the least for her public schools, which means for the most useful and most productive department of education. According to recent statistics, Turkey in 1865 had 15,000 schools, attended by 600,000 children, out of a total population of 25,000,000 souls. Russia has three times this population and only 20,000 schools, attended by from 800,000 to 900,000 pupils." As regards Turkey, we are not able to verify these figures, and must trust the evidence of the patriotic journal we have quoted; but as regards Russia, the 850,000 children have for their use only about 9000 schools, instead of 20,000.

To the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, the different German States, and Holland, the proportionate figures exhibited by Prussia may be approximately applied.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE musical season is gradually coming to a close. The Philharmonic and New Philharmonic Societies have given their last concerts for the present year. The Musical Society of London, owing to the death of its orchestral conductor, Mr. Alfred Mellon, has apparently terminated its labours for ever. The givers of benefit concerts have exhausted the patience of their friends and pupils, and are in turn retiring upon their snugly-earned laurels. The Royal Italian Opera has reached its last week; and Mr. Mapleson is also on the point of closing. "Don Giovanni" has been performed at Her Majesty's Theatre, with a distribution of characters in which it was chiefly to be remarked that of Donna Elvira was allotted to Mdle. Nilsson. So much the better for Donna Elvira; and so much the better, in one sense, for Mdle. Nilsson, who really succeeded in making the part interesting. Donna Elvira ought to be a sympathetic personage. At all events, there is plenty of pathos in what she says and sings. Between Donna Anna, Don Juan's classical, majestic victim, and Zerlina, his sprightly, coquettish victim, there is Donna Elvira, his romantic, sentimental victim. But Donna Elvira has always been looked upon as an "ungrateful" part; though, really, considering what singers it has been the fashion to intrust it to, it has had very little to be grateful for. A curious tradition, somehow gone wrong, is that which makes the chorus, "La Libertà," in the finale to the first act of "Don Giovanni" an earnest apostrophe to Liberty, when it is, in fact, nothing more than a spirited invocation addressed to Freedom—in the sense of that which is free and easy. It has become customary, all the same, to make the chorus in question the pretext for a great vocal display; and Mdme. Trebelli-Bettini, Mdme. Demerich-Lablache, Signor Mongini, Signor Tascia, Signor Bettini, Mr. Hohler, and all the solo singers to whom acting parts were not assigned, helped to swell the volume of sound which at Her Majesty's Theatre is thought essential to the proper rendering of the so-called "La Libertà." We must not omit to state that Mdle. Titiens represented Donna Anna; Mdle. Sinico, Zerlina; M. Gassier, Don Giovanni; Mr. Santley, Leporello; and Signor Gardoni, Don Ottavio; and that the opera was produced with new and very magnificent scenery.

We hear that some slight changes have been made in "La Forza del Destino" since the first performance of that work at Her Majesty's Theatre. The storm of the last act has ceased to rage with its original violence. The thunder roars with a subdued roar, and the crash of falling thunderbolts is rendered with all possible gentleness. Moreover, Don Alvaro and Don Pedro (his wicked brother-in-law), instead of dying two violent deaths in the course of the drama, now come only once each to an untimely end. In the original version, as played at Her Majesty's Theatre when "La Forza del Destino" was first brought out, Don Alvaro, to all appearances, killed Don Pedro in a duel; and when to his, and every one else's astonishment, Don Pedro returned to life, killed him again, this time beyond all hope of recovery. Don Alvaro, too, before finally committing suicide, was shot in battle, and, under pretence of being mortally wounded, sang, like Gennaro in "Luceria," and Egardo in "Lucia," the conventional swan song of the expiring tenor. At present the suicide is suppressed. Don Alvaro's steeple-chase up the side of a mountain, from which he was afterwards seen to throw himself into some sort of abyss, is replaced by a dull death, producing melancholy which settles upon the ill-fated hero, just as the curtain comes down.

"La Forza del Destino" is admirably performed. Besides the four principal parts, intrusted to Mdle. Titiens, Mdme. Trebelli-Bettini, Signor Mongini, and Mr. Santley, there are three minor ones, which are assigned to Signor Gassier, Signor Rokitanski, and Mr. Tom Hohler. It is seldom that an opera is played with such a cast as this; but neither the novelty of the music nor the merit of the execution has much effect in attracting the public.

But the great attraction of all at Her Majesty's Theatre is Mozart's "Magic Flute," with Mdle. Christine Nilsson in the part of the Queen of Night. Of the wonderful impersonation and of the general execution of the work, which is to be repeated this evening, we must speak on another occasion. Suffice it for the present to say, that the cast of the opera is unusually strong, and that it includes Mdle. Titiens, Mdme. Trebelli-Bettini, Mr. Santley, and Signor Gardoni.

MR. GERMAN REED has decided on bringing his season to a close on Monday, Aug. 5, when there will be a benefit for himself, Mrs. Reed, and Mr. John Parry. All who have enjoyed the entertainment of a "Dream in Venice," must wish success to the manager on the occasion. To the "Dream in Venice" (for the 140th time) and "Merry Making" will be added other attractions on the closing night.

DEATH OF THE WIFE OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR.—A sensation of grief, which it is almost impossible to describe, has been occasioned by the sudden death of the wife of Musurus Pacha. During the festivities at the India House, Musurus Pacha was informed that Madame Musurus was taken somewhat ill. On reaching an ante-room he found the poor lady suffering the most excruciating agony, as if from some spasmodic affection of the heart. Medical aid was sent for, but upon examining the unfortunate lady, she was found to be in such a state as to leave no chance of her recovery. We regret to state that she died before reaching home.

LAYMEN AS JUDGES.—In the debate on the Court of Chancery Appeal (Dispatch of Business) Bill, Lord Romilly brought to the notice of the House of Lords a suggestion, which he had already made before a Select Committee, with reference to appeals in their Lordships' House. It was the opinion of the Master of the Rolls that there ought to be in the final tribunal an infusion of the lay element, for the purpose of correcting that tendency to narrow and technical views of the law to which the legal mind naturally inclined. The authority of Jeremy Bentham was cited in favour of this proposition; and it was further observed that the House of Lords contained many members competent to perform judicial functions. It is not a new observation that the Scotch jurisprudence has received great advantages from the opinions delivered by English lawyers sitting in the House of Lords, and there can be little doubt that the services of Scotch lawyers such as Lord Colonsay are found equally valuable in appeals from English Courts. In this country some such importation of intellect trained under dissimilar conditions is rendered the more important because all the members of the Bench are drawn from the ranks of the Bar, whereas on the Continent no such transition from the advocate to the Judge takes place.—*Law Journal*.

THE REVIEW AT WIMBLEDON.

THE business of the Wimbledon meeting was, on Saturday last, brought to a close by a series of interesting and attractive events. Before the arrival of the Sultan each corps under canvas told off detachments for a guard of honour, which lined the way along which the Sultan and the Prince of Wales were to pass. The Sultan's tent was a gorgeous affair—a thing of quite, if not more, than Eastern grandeur. There was a circular tent some 40 ft. in diameter, formed of scarlet and white canvas, and its floor was covered with scarlet cloth. This was the reception tent. Luxurious ottomans, chairs of gold and damask, tables of elegant form, pedestals of ormolu-work supporting jardinières filled with the choicest flowers, and fountains throwing up sprays of fragrant water. On the right and left flags of Turkey and of England were gracefully draped. On the right was an ante-room, and on the left was an ante-room—one for the Sultan, the other for the Prince of Wales. On withdrawing the draped curtains on the side opposite the entrance, a gallery of lavish luxury was entered. Here, on tables covered with rich velvet and bullion fringes, were placed the prizes which the British volunteers had won. The whole of the fittings-up and decorations, particularly the floral ones, were magnificent. The Prince of Wales was received by Earl and Countess Spencer at the entrance of the tent, and was conducted into the interior, where were also the Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary Adelaide, and other distinguished guests. The ceremony of handing the prizes to the successful competitors took place in front of the Grand Stand. The prizes were arranged on tables covered with baize. In the centre of these tables was a raised dais, on which Princess Mary Adelaide, Prince Teck, Earl and Countess Spencer, and others stood. No prize under the value of £20 was distributed. Considerable cheering took place as the more successful and best-known competitors approached, the greatest enthusiasm being displayed when the English volunteers advanced, and bore aloft on their shoulders the huge Elcho challenge shield, amid the cheering of their comrades.

At the termination of the distribution the review commenced. The Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary, and most of the distinguished visitors took up their positions at the flagstaff shortly after half-past five. About six o'clock the booming of the cannon announced the arrival of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who, with a splendid escort and Staff, in a few minutes afterwards rode on to the ground. His Majesty bestrode a magnificent white charger. His dress was a splendidly emblazoned suit of blue and gold; he was accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Aosta, second son of the King of Italy, and by the English attachés appointed by her Majesty, and his own suite, also mounted upon chargers of the finest breed. He was received by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge. The scene at this moment was magnificent and striking. Although clouds were gathering, it was still fine. The background was formed of the Grand Stand crowded with gaily-dressed people. There was also a very large number of carriages. It was precisely a quarter-past six when a signal-gun called the troop to attention, and the Royal party rode along the lines, the Belgians, about 1000 in number, being first visited. The volunteers were then inspected, and then the regulars. By this time a drizzling rain had set in, which continued during the proceedings. A terrific scene of confusion then took place, the spectators having forced the barriers. The police and hussars had hard work to keep them from mobbing the cavalcade. The tour of inspection being completed, the march past commenced, the post of honour being awarded to the Belgians. The appearance of the regular troops—cavalry, artillery, and Grenadiers, with their bands—was very grand, and elicited vehement cheering. At the head of the 1st Regiment of Life Guards rode his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, with his Staff. Onward marched the Grenadiers, to the tune of the "British Grenadiers," in open column, but of grand divisions as straight as if there were but six instead of sixty in a line. Cheer after cheer rang out. The Grenadiers were followed by the Coldstreams, in the same formation; and when the tune, changing to the spirit-stirring strains of "Highland Laddie," indicated the approach of the Scots Fusiliers, renewed cheering and cries of "Bravo!" rent the air, and even the stolid face of the Sultan, as he sat like a statue on his white charger, seemed to be moved to animation. Now came the turn of England's citizen soldiery, headed by Lieutenant-General Sir J. Yorke Scarlett; and it may at once be said for all and every battalion on the ground, numbering in the aggregate about 10,000 men, that, whether as regards their appearance or their marching, notwithstanding that absence of splendour in their uniforms which attaches to the household brigades, they bore favourable comparison with the flower of the regular army of England. With the conclusion of the marching past the rain seemed to increase in violence. Then a kind of involuntary rush was made and the boundary line was broken, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the 3rd Hussars to keep their own. The vast multitude made directly towards the Sultan's carriage, cheering his Majesty with unbounded enthusiasm. This innovation had the effect of inclosing the dais, on which were seated the Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Teck, and other ladies of distinction. The Duke of Cambridge, observing this, at once told his staff to endeavour to form a passage to enable those ladies to reach their carriages; but it was not until some considerable time had elapsed that this could be accomplished, and that, too, with the aid of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who, seeming rather to enjoy the contretemps, smilingly backed his charger against the increasing pressure and crowd, and ultimately their Royal Highnesses the Duchess and Princes left the dais, followed by the ladies in attendance. The Sultan, too, had in the interval re-entered his barouche, and drove away, followed by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, who were still in the saddle, and who must have been drenched long before they reached Earl Spencer's tent. It was estimated that there were at least 200,000 people present during and even at the conclusion of the review, which was at about eight o'clock.

THE IRON DISTRICTS OF ENGLAND AND NEW ZEALAND.—A movement has commenced in the "black country" for promoting emigration to Taranaki, in New Zealand. After years spent in experiments, a process has been discovered by which the Taranaki iron-sand, that lies in unlimited quantities on the sea shore, may be turned to profitable use. The New Zealand Iron and Steel Company are preparing to erect smelting-works, and the emigration of ironworkers to Taranaki will establish an iron trade in all its ramifications. An association has been formed at Birmingham, called the "Taranaki New Zealand Special Settlement Association," to effect for its members cheap and comfortable passages and the formation of special settlements. Taranaki has already been called "the garden" of New Zealand, now she bids fair to become a large producer of a metal that has proved England's chief source of wealth. At a meeting held at Wolverhampton—Mr. Brame, of Birmingham, presiding—a specimen of bar iron manufactured from the sand excited great interest, and the toilers of the "black country" seem bent upon pushing matters through to a successful issue.

THE ENGLISH SINGERS IN PARIS.—The choir of the Tonic Sol-fa Association of London responded to the challenge sent some six months ago by the Emperor, who offered a prize of £200 to the choir (of any nation) which should gain the highest place in the competition in Paris. The competition came off on Monday, the 8th inst., and the presentation of the prizes, which took place on the day following, is thus described by *Le Figaro*:—"By two o'clock all the singers had assembled in the Palace of Industry, the two prize corps being seated in the centre, at the foot of the steps leading to the throne. At three the Emperor arrived, accompanied by the Empress and Princess Clotilde. As soon as the "Domine Salvum" had been sung the banners of all the competing choirs were carried in procession before their Majesties, being lowered as they passed the throne, as is done at a review. When the banners had passed the prizes were given away. The Emperor gave the special prize which had been decreed to the English Tonic Sol-fa Association to a young English girl, who was much moved, and covered with blushes. The two conquerors then sang the pieces which gained for them the prize so sharply and ardently contested. Their Majesties then left." It should be added that the prize was given to a choir from Lille, in the north of France; it seems that the right of the English choir to the prize was disputed on account of their having lady voices among them. But their singing was "of such a high order" (these were the judge's words) that they had a special prize—a prize of "égaleme" given them, as narrated above. It consisted of a gold Exhibition medal, a silver-gilt wreath, and a certificate. Mr. Joseph Proudhon, the hard-working conductor, received also another gold medal, and the Society of Orphonistes presented him with their decoration of honour.

SALMON FISHERIES OF ENGLAND.

THE sixth annual report of the Inspectors of Salmon Fisheries has been issued. Owing to the death of Mr. Fennell and the retirement of his colleague in consequence of broken health, the present publication presents new names, and comprises the first report of Mr. Frank Buckland and the first report of Mr. S. Walpole. Shortly before his death Mr. Fennell issued a series of questions to the boards of conservators of rivers, and Mr. Buckland states carefully the substance of the information thus obtained. It shows that the salmon fisheries of England are improving; but that there is very much yet to be done if this valuable fish is to be allowed to become a common article of food. The salmon must have clean and pure water in which to live and be reproduced; but we know how greatly the rivers of England are polluted by every abomination and all the refuse that can be got rid of by putting it into a river. Mr. Buckland is for the appointment of a Government engineer to advise upon questions as to the disposal of polluted water from mines and works, and its purification by the aid of chemistry, which he does not believe to be a very difficult task in the present state of science if serious attention is once turned to it. Next comes the question of a free passage for the fish up and down the rivers in due season. Here, again, Mr. Buckland feels convinced that, with a friendly co-operation between conservators and the owners of weirs and mills, the two objects of working mill power and producing fish will not be found incompatible. He discusses the construction of ladders, the models produced at the Salmon Fishery Congress, and the protection of the entrance of mill-slides by gratings when the fish are descending to the sea. A third important object is the protection of the parent salmon when engaged in spawning—a time when one fell blow by a poacher will annihilate thousands of fish in the form of eggs. These unseasonable fish, totally unfit for food, are generally caught by idle men of the poacher class, and Mr. Buckland fears that in some cases the magistrates have been rather too lenient with them. He is strongly in favour of water bailiffs being allowed to traverse the banks of the rivers, in order to protect from poachers the salmon engaged in making their nests. Mr. Walpole exposes the notion entertained by some fishermen that the salmon Acts have been passed for the benefit of sportsmen. They were passed in the interest of the entire nation, and this by increasing the fisherman's take. He notices the great improvement already accomplished. Four thousand salmon were caught last season in the Exe, against 400 in previous years; and the conservators of the Ribble and Holder report that in one fishery, where only ninety salmon were taken in 1859, 9000 were taken last summer. Mr. Walpole regards as very remarkable the extent to which fishery districts under boards of conservators have been formed under the Act of 1865, and he expresses his hope that the whole seaboard of England will be placed under these jurisdictions. In the course of the present year one or both of the new commissioners will probably visit personally all the salmon rivers in England, and their next report will give the result of their observations and inquiries.

SEASIDE COWARDICE.—A young woman, named Jane Elizabeth Brown, wife of the master of Charles-street Ragged-schools, Drury-lane, London, was drowned at Littlehampton, on Saturday week. She was bathing in the sea, near a groyne, and was talking to a friend, when the water suddenly carried her off her feet and washed her over the groyne, from the east to the west side of it. Her friend screamed for assistance; and six men were standing on the green, by the side of the road, but made no effort to save the poor creature. A lady's-maid in the service of Lady Armstrong then ran to Rustington Mill, about a hundred yards off, and a "loader," named Arthur Digance, came to the spot, and Captain Ransome pointed out to him where the body was floating, telling him it was in 10 ft. of water. Digance could not swim; but he rushed into the water and with a hoe caught hold of the bathing-dress and dragged the body ashore with great difficulty. It was in about 5½ ft. of water. The facts were proved at an inquest held on the deceased on Monday; and the jury expressed their astonishment that six Englishmen should have been witnesses to a lady drowning without making any effort to save her life. They could have joined hands and endeavoured to reach the deceased, which they might have succeeded in doing, as it was at least ten minutes later when the body was rescued by Digance. Dr. Candy said he arrived soon after the body was brought ashore, and means for restoring animation were for an hour persevered in, but without effect. The Coroner remarked that no doubt could exist but that the deceased had been overpowered by the sea; and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned while bathing."

CHAPTER OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—A scheme, approved by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and bearing date June 27, has been laid before Parliament. It leaves the Dean and Chapter of Westminster in possession of estates which, with payments to be annually made to them by the Commissioners, will suffice to provide for the Dean and six Canons the incomes which they are to receive—namely, the Dean £2000 a year and each Canon £1000 a year. The application of the property thus left in their possession will, therefore, be as follows:—The income will be divided into twenty-three parts, eight of which will be required for the £8000 a year payable to the Dean and Canons; three other parts will be applied to the expenses of the school and the repair of the school buildings; and the remaining twelve parts, with the income arising from the profits of the office of High Bailiff of Westminster, and from fees and any other sources, are to form a fund for defraying the expenses of maintaining the services of the church, the repairs of the fabric and collegiate buildings, and all other expenses chargeable upon the corporate revenues of the Dean and Chapter. Three of the Canons having been appointed before the Order in Council settling the future income of Canons, the Commissioners are to pay also £1500 a year until the avoidance of the canonry held by Lord J. Thynne; £666 13s. 4d., in like manner, for the canonry held by Mr. Jennings; and £1083 6s. 8d. for the canonry held by Dr. Wordsworth. A sum of £10,000 is to be paid to the Dean and Chapter as consideration for their loss in having abstained from renewing certain leases upon payment of fines.

THE LOST SHEEP.—An interesting custom which has prevailed for more than a hundred years in the extensive range of moors in Derbyshire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire is the annual summer meeting of the shepherds, bringing with them the sheep that have strayed into their flocks, and restoring them to their rightful owners. Every 20th of July the meetings are held; and, as they are entirely different from any other gatherings and have not hitherto been described, a notice of the last may not be out of place. The appointed place for assembling on Saturday last was the Saltersbrook turnpike road, distant rather more than two miles from the Dunford-bridge station on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, and at a point near where the three counties above-named met. On walking from the station across the moor the turnpike road was reached; and then, after a long march uphill, a sharp angle of the road brought the visitor into the midst of a colony of dogs, numbering from eighty to one hundred, nearly all fine specimens of the sheep-dog breed. They were playing, quarrelling, and a few were having "a quiet round" to themselves. Not far from them were their owners, each with a long stick, by which the shepherd indicates to his dog in many instances what he is required to do. After partaking of a good dinner, provided by Mr. Taylor, a large moorland proprietor and sheep-breeder, the men, with their dogs, proceeded to a large yard, in which there were about one hundred sheep which had strayed away. Each animal was examined and claimed by certain marks and indications, the dogs occasionally appearing to recognise some of the truants. In the course of half an hour, with the exception of two or three, all the animals had found their way back to their lawful owners; and shortly after the shepherds, with their dogs and found sheep, departed for their respective stations, miles distant and far apart, most of them not to meet again for months, or until they once more assembled, bringing with them the lost ones and claiming their own truants.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SCOTLAND.—The Registrar-General has now completed ten years' detailed reports of births, marriages, and deaths in Scotland—a period generally regarded as sufficient for obtaining a fair average; and we have now, therefore, the means of ascertaining the vital statistics of the country more accurately than at any time since Scotland has been a nation. The annual birth-rate in the ten years 1855-64 has averaged 3.447 per cent; the marriage-rate, 0.689 per cent; the death-rate, 2.135 per cent. The death-rate in England in the same period was 2.216 per cent. The lower mortality in Scotland is due—partly, at all events—to its smaller proportion of large towns. The annual death-rate in Glasgow in the ten years averaged 3.01 per cent. In every quinquennial period of life the rate of mortality is heaviest among males, with one exception. Between ten and fifteen the female death-rate in Scotland in the ten years slightly preponderated over that of males. 9.1 per cent of all the children born were illegitimate. In the same period the registers show only 6.4 per cent illegitimate in England, but a considerable number of births escape registration in England (nearly 37,000 a year, according to the Census report), and as a majority of these probably belong to the illegitimate class, it may be assumed that the proportion of illegitimate children at birth is nearly the same in both countries. Owing to the Scotch law of legitimisation by subsequent marriage of the parents, fewer persons in the population are illegitimate in Scotland than in England. The ten years' returns show some progress of education in Scotland. In the five years 1855-9, 88.2 per cent of the men who married, and 76.5 per cent of the women, were able to sign their names in the parish register; in the five years 1860-4, 89.3 per cent of the men and 78.1 per cent of the women. These numbers are much above those of England. Arraying mortal diseases in the order of their fatality in Scotland, we must place first consumption, which in the ten years, upon an average, destroyed 2.595 per 1000 of population every year. It looks well that old age comes next, 2.119 per 1000 dying annually from this cause, without marked signs of disease. Then comes bronchitis, taking off its 1.525 per 1000 per annum; typhus or continued fever, 1.018; premature debility, 0.985; scarlatina, 0.920; heart disease, 0.789; pneumonia, 0.730; whooping-cough, 0.725; hydrocephalus, 0.626. These are the ten most usual modes of exit from life in Scotland. Next in order, according to the returns for the last two years of the series, would come diphtheria, which until 1857 did not appear in the Scottish bills of mortality at all.

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